

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 27, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MAY 29, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the May 29, 2008 Metro Council agenda. President Bragdon mentioned Blue Heron Week. Michael Jordan, COO, discussed reorganization of the agency and processes underway.

2. COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DISCUSSION

Richard Brandman, Deputy Planning Director, talked about the Columbia River Crossing task force. He said the objective of the meeting was to give Councilor Burkholder input on task force action. He discussed the processes involved in the task force making recommendations. He talked about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and noted it did not make a recommendation or formulate a conclusion.

He talked about different build options included in the EIS, different bridge builds, and the inclusion of transit in the EIS. He said that alignment options were also included. He said tolls were included in all build options. Mr. Brandman further noted there was a generic finance plan in the EIS, and a number of design issues were included as well. He said the Council would be represented in all conversations involved in the development of the project.

Councilor Harrington asked about continuance of the task force. Councilor Burkholder said the current task force had met for the last time. Councilor Liberty asked about the timeline for the transit component. Mr. Brandman said the deadline was August 2008. He said information would be submitted by the end of July. Councilor Liberty said it was an annual cycle and there would be annual deadlines. Mr. Brandman said the August deadline was more for preliminary engineering. Councilor Hosticka asked about other governments involved. Mr. Brandman said that the City of Portland, the City of Vancouver, CTRAN, TRIMET, and the two ports (Portland and Vancouver) were involved. Councilor Hosticka asked about desires of the project. Mr. Brandman said if one part of the process was not able to move forward, the entire project may or may not be stalled. Mr. Brandman talked about political considerations in moving forward with different parts of the project.

Councilor Burkholder introduced his resolution, Resolution No. 08-3938 regarding the Columbia River Crossing. He discussed what the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identified. Councilor Burkholder said his resolution was not necessarily based from positions, but borrowed from recommendations from the DEIS. Councilor Burkholder looked for input on additional issues for discussion.

Councilor Liberty introduced his resolution, Resolution No. 08-3948 also regarding the Columbia River Crossing. He talked about incorporating goals to reduce greenhouse gases. He provided overviews of a packet he handed out (see attachment "Coming to Oregon"). He talked about alternatives contained within the packet as well as comparisons.

Councilor Collette talked about tolling existing bridges, but stated that she would like to see tolling be available for CTRAN services. She stated her main concern with the project was that both states set very high goals for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and reduced emission goals, she was not against the bridge, but she wanted to see the bridge as a regional success in accordance to goals. Councilor Hosticka said he was concerned with whether Metro was in a fight or not. He said timing and risk management were key in approaching the project. He said tolling was a key tool in reducing congestion. He said transit was equally as important. President Bragdon opened Council discussion.

Councilor Burkholder talked about existing options. Councilor Liberty said he thought it was more about phasing, including parts of all options. He talked about combinations. Councilor Hosticka said he was not comfortable voting for something with a lot of conditions on it. Councilor Park said problems he saw with phasing was impacting freight mobility. Councilor Collette said variable tolls might affect freight, but a nominal toll could work more effectively. She said there should not be variable tolls during the pre-construction phase. Councilor Liberty talked about traffic volumes, and further talked about the relation between fuel prices and demand. Councilor Burkholder said the format of Resolution No. 08-3938 provided more direction than the alternative (Resolution No. 08-3948). Councilor Liberty talked about the structure of Resolution No. 08-3938.

President Bragdon talked about his revisions to Resolution No. 08-3938A. He said it was important to identify and provide emphasis of where the Council's concerns were. He talked about the Council's role in the resolution. President Bragdon talked about settling issues and the connection to Metro's role. Councilor Collette reiterated her concern with building a transportation tool that helped reduce emissions. Councilor Park asked about objectives of the three different proposed resolutions. Councilor Liberty talked about his concern with timing in relation to other policy and plans. He talked about comparing the Columbia River Crossing project to other projects. Councilor Park talked about making consistent policy choices. Councilor Hosticka talked about the danger in making premature decisions.

Councilor Burkholder went through Exhibit A to Resolution No. 08-3938 (see meeting packet). He provided an overview to primary issues. Councilor Harrington asked about addressing tolling during pre-construction processes or after. He talked about lack of detailed project oversight. Councilor Collette asked about processes until the Council voted on proposed resolutions. President Bragdon noted the project was a product of collaboration but also a way to increase proactive influence in the region. Councilor Park requested more information on the phasing process. Councilor Burkholder talked about opportunities to provide public input.

3. BREAK

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(i) AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT RELATED PERFORMANCE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND THE METRO ATTORNEY

Time Began: 3:30 p.m.

Time Ended: 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty, Michael Jordan (COO), Dan Cooper (Metro Attorney)

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
MAY 27, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	5/29/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, May 29, 2008	052708cw-1
2	Visual	5/23/08	Columbia River Crossing – Comparison of Proposed Metro Council Resolutions, May 27, 2008	052708cw-2
2	Packet	5/27/08	Coming into Oregon packet distributed by Councilor Liberty, May 27, 2008	052708cw-3