

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GREATEST PLACE WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

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

Robin McArthur, Planning and Development Director, introduced the Greatest Place Work Session agenda. She provided an overview of the Greatest Place work plan and identified where current processes were. Councilor Harrington said some input assumed the role of nonbinding opinions rather than specific definitions. Councilor Park was not sure how certain subjects tied into reserves discussions. Councilor Burkholder said local aspirations needed framed as iterative. He said it was important to think about equity issues, and it was also important to “referee” discussions, as Metro had the luxury of not being location specific. Council President Bragdon said it was important to discuss consequences of choices for different localities and jurisdictions. He talked about official expressions – as some would say one thing privately and another thing publicly. He said local jurisdictions should be held accountable to their views. Ms. McArthur said it would be very useful. Councilor Harrington said cities within areas should be dependent on sharing information with one another. She said that would help things at a regional level. Councilor Liberty said options for voting should be on Greatest Place work plans and timelines for citizens as well as elected officials. He said if all was done completely, the hard part would begin – implementation. Councilor Collette asked if there was any financial support provided to local jurisdictions for their involvement in the process. She said work could be done working more close with coordinating committees as well. Ms. McArthur said financial assistance was not provided to local jurisdictions. Councilor Hosticka asked about context, and how preferred alternatives were expressed and adopted. Councilor Liberty talked about intermediate validations. He thought a decision should be made soon to stimulate reactions from other stakeholders and jurisdictions.

Councilor Burkholder asked Councilor Liberty about public referendum and intermediate validations, and subsequent processes involved. Councilor Burkholder talked about educational options that specifically addressed possible policy decisions. President Bragdon said there had to be a way to condense the work plan, so as not to narrow Council options. He said he felt Metro was wearing people out with retreats, workshops, ongoing meetings, etc. and it was important to be sensitive to overcomplications and overdoing meetings. Councilor Hosticka asked how much energy should be exerted refining measures and scenarios, and defining how to get to an end result. He said it was more useful to develop a directional strategy to the end rather than completing more analysis and crunching numbers. Councilor Collette talked about the addition of newly elected officials, and asked about engaging them in recent material. She talked about getting to a more specific level. Councilor Burkholder said the overarching question was “how much more is needed?” He said it was important to provide a big framework, then more specific with visions and work plans, based on agreements. He said his idea was to present a recommendation based on agreements and gain feedback. Councilor Harrington talked about the Mayor’s Forum, and discussed conflicts in aspirations. She talked about discrepancies in memos. She said playback was important in framing and providing feedback for differing aspirations.

President Bragdon said he wanted to condense, and more analysis was not the source of disagreement. He said there had been enough “science” and it was time to address the “art” of the project. Councilor Liberty said there had been a lot of talk, and he wanted to see governments grapple with tradeoffs and make their own individual choices. He said it was also important to begin money discussions. Councilor Hosticka said he had heard the same discussions within city councils, and did not feel it was a case of lack of deeper levels of engagement.

Councilor Burkholder summarized directions. They included recommendation, summarization, and giving localities tools for plan success. Councilor Hosticka added that monitoring was a very important aspect of the process and work program. President Bragdon talked about modeling. Ms. McArthur said iterations of scenarios were not ultimately necessary. Michael Jordan, COO, said it was important to craft the process knowing what affected what, how, and what the “chain” was connected to down the road. Councilor Harrington said the one trend she was concerned about was people not having access to different housing types and styles.

President Bragdon said certain information should not hide on the web, but should instead be taken and shown to people as “tools” for promotion. Councilor Burkholder talked about being sensitive to localities’ other issues in their respective jurisdictions. Councilor Harrington said it was important to find other forums. Councilor Liberty asked about capital improvement plans. Mr. Jordan talked about realistic prioritizations in the real world according to opportunity. Councilor Harrington asked about involvement in periodic review. President Bragdon talked about correlations and focusing discussions on outcomes. Councilor Park talked about efficient planning leading to greater fiscal capacity.

Malu Wilkinson, Planning, introduced employment and economic trends work program elements. She discussed outcomes she wished to achieve. She talked about different strategies employed in developing employment and economic trends analyses. Eric Hovee, Consultant, gave an overview of the Economic and Employment Trends Analysis. He talked about alignment with the 2040 Design paradigm. He talked about regional and sub-regional allocations. He discussed increasing job-levels without increasing land-use footprints per job. Councilor Liberty asked about defining sub-regional allocations. Councilor Burkholder said it was critical to set aside industrial land. He asked how to determine what a company needs when they could be in a big tower or a large, sprawling campus – he asked how to take current practices, insert sustainable methods, and still encourage job growth. Mr. Hovee said it was important to understand the changing culture of different companies as well as their direction. Councilor Burkholder talked about the land’s role in such a scenario. Councilor Collette talked about strategies for better land utilization of business campuses (i.e. employee housing on campus, etc.). Councilor Liberty talked about past predictions of land needs, and how much confidence could be kept in land forecasts, especially for housing. Councilor Harrington talked about regional agreement on design types. She talked about reference versus baseline. Councilor Hosticka talked about the word “industrial” and shifts in definitions. Councilor Liberty asked which were land-need sensitive and which were not.

Councilor Collette asked about farming and agriculture inclusion in focus group invitees. Councilor Burkholder asked if there were any invitees from north of the Columbia River (Vancouver, Washington, etc.). Councilor Park asked about bringing schools into planning efforts.

Kim Ellis, Regional Transportation Plan Manager, discussed the Regional Transportation Plan component. She discussed the Preview Template for Regional Mobility Corridor Atlas. She discussed the regional mobility corridor concept and explained subsequent maps and visuals. She talked about investment packages. Councilor Park asked about width of corridors. Ms. Ellis said it depended on many factors, most notably geography and already existing mobility corridors. President Bragdon asked about defining characteristics of mobility corridors. Ms. Ellis explained corridor definitions. Councilor Hosticka asked about cross-state mobility becoming a priority, because he was not interested in such a priority. Councilor Park talked about looking at certain corridors and subsequent movement throughout. Councilor Liberty talked about differences in short versus long-distance movement through corridors. Councilor Harrington talked about through-ways. Councilor Liberty talked about integrating strategic choices and identifying past Council interest. Councilor Burkholder requested relative values for statistics and analysis of relative situations “on the ground.” Councilor Harrington talked about travel choices and geographic locations of corridors.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
11/19/08	Draft 11/19/2008, Focus Group Invitees, Discussion topic: location choices – past and changing paradigms; economic trends	111908cw-1
11/19/08	Coordination and Advisory Committee Charge Employment and Economic Trends Analysis, October 2008	111908cw-2
11/12/08	Draft, Initial Analysis of Keypad Responses for Policymakers for the Joint MPAC/JPACT meeting, November 12, 2008	111908cw-3
11/19/08	Mobility Corridor: Portland Central City to Gateway, November 19, 2008	111908cw-4
11/19/08	Mobility Corridor: Highway 217 to North Plains, November 19, 2008	111908cw-5
11/19/08	Regional Mobility Corridors map, November 19, 2008	111908cw-6