



**METRO**

**Agenda**

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL GREATEST PLACE WORK SESSION  
DATE: November 19, 2008  
DAY: Wednesday  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Objectives:**

- Share status of *Making the Greatest Place* work elements
- Council direction on how to move from “Frame Choices” Phase to “Refine Choices” Phase
- Preview employment and economic trends work program elements
- Preview Regional Mobility Corridor Atlas

**Agenda:**

- I. Making the Greatest Place Engagement Milestones and Strategy (60 minutes)
  - Review key milestones, process
  - Discuss how local aspirations are being integrated into work tracks - see attached memo “Local Jurisdictions Growth Aspiration Requests”
  - Discuss proposal for moving into “Refine Choices” phase – see attached memo “Moving from “Frame Choices” to “Refine Choices” phase of *Making the Greatest Place*
- II. Employment and Economic Trends Work Program Elements – Malu Wilkinson, Eric Hovee (60 minutes) – materials sent under separate cover
- III. Break (15 minutes)
- IV. Regional Transportation Plan: Preview Template for Regional Mobility Corridor Atlas – Kim Ellis/Deena Platman (45 minutes) – see attachment

# M E M O R A N D U M

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**METRO**

To: Metro Council  
From: Chris Deffebach  
Subject: Local Jurisdiction Growth Aspiration Requests  
Date: November 12, 2008

This memo updates Council on our approach to soliciting information about local aspirations and applying that information to the coordinated activities within the broader Making the Greatest Place effort. Our approach is designed to reflect the previous direction from Council by starting a process that defines the quality of community aspirations, not quantity.

Each of the Making the Greatest Place tracks requires an understanding of aspirations for growth in each jurisdiction. Estimates of how local communities plan to grow will help determine:

- How we plan to meet 20 year needs identified in the Urban Growth Report
- How to set priorities for high capacity transit and other transportation investments
- How to size urban and rural reserves
- How to target technical assistance to support achieving these aspirations.

To coordinate between the different Making the Greatest Place tracks, staff has prepared a letter to planning directors to request information about aspirations for growth in their communities. The request asks:

1. What are your plans for growth in your city in general and in your centers, corridors and employment areas in particular?
  - What is your planned capacity? Is our understanding of your current planned capacity correct?
  - What are your aspirations for capacities beyond current adopted plans, if any?
  - What are your plans for growth in the 50 year timeframe, if any?
2. What kind of community are you planning for?

- Are you planning for an 18- hour community or other community shown on the Activity Spectrum?
  - Are you planning for a particular quality of environment, such low-rise or high-rise?
3. What policy and investment choices will it take for you to achieve these aspirations?
- What type of transportation or other infrastructure?
  - What type of financial assistance?
  - What type of regulatory or other tools?

In addition, we are using this opportunity to ask jurisdiction staff to give feedback on Metro's vacant land inventory and capacity assumptions for use in completing the employment analysis for the Urban Growth Report.

Planning Directors reviewed the proposal in October and have been asked to complete the request by January 2009. Staff is partnering with the Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah County planning staff to convene planning directors, collect and synthesize the results. Metro staff is meeting with planning directors at their county level meetings and offering to meet with them separately to review our current centers assessment and other available data in November and December to help them complete the request. Local planning directors are briefing their councils as needed in November, December and January. Some of these meetings will be able to coincide with Metro Council briefings to City Councils in early 2009.

This work is timed to support the development of other Making the Greatest Place products in February and March. When the Preliminary Urban Growth Report is released in February, the summary of local aspirations will provide one alternative view of the future capacities within the region and can inform the sizing of urban reserve in the spring. The summary of local aspirations will also support the prioritization of mobility and community building projects at RTP workshops in February and March. The High Capacity Transit project will incorporate the summary of the local aspiration work to evaluate alternative corridors.

Finally, the results we receive will reflect only an initial consideration of how the region wants to grow in the next 20 to 50 years. Throughout 2009 and 2010, we expect the aspirations to be revised as communities, such as Portland and Forest Grove, consider different growth options through a public process as part of their periodic review. Staff will continue to support the evolution of these aspirations through the use of tools such as the new visualization effort that is underway as well as by highlighting the link between targeting limited financial resources and meeting community aspirations in the development of a preferred investment strategy.

Key milestones are summarized in the attached table.

## Local Aspiration Work Program Timeline

Nov 12, 2008

Tasks	Sept/Oct	Nov/Dec	Jan	Feb/Mar	April/May	June-Dec
Preparation: Define objectives, process, products and review with planning directors						
Distribution/Collection: Assist planning directors in subarea groups and individually, as needed to complete request.						
Prepare preliminary results: summarize results and translate responses into illustrations of the region's aspirations; coordinate results with HCT analysis						
Review results: review results at subarea level, coordinating with mobility corridor workshops and prepare materials for regional discussions						
Regional review: Use results to help evaluate progress to achieve desired regional outcomes using performance measures and choices						
Technical assistance: Assist local jurisdictions to identify policy, regulatory, or financial tools to support local aspirations consistent with regional desired outcomes using visual modeling						
Revised/Preferred Plan: revise representation of local aspirations along with priority investments to support region's preferred strategy						
<b>Key Review:</b>						
Subarea leads review/advise	*	*	*	*	*	
Planning Director review/advise	*		*		*	
Metro Councilor briefings to City Councils	*			*		*
MPAC/JPACT review approach, comment and advise on results		*			*	*

 **Metro** | *Memo*

**Date:** November 12, 2008

**To:** Metro Council

**From:** Robin McArthur, Director of Planning and Development Services

**Re:** Moving from “Frame Choices” to “Refine Choices” phase of *Making the Greatest Place*

**Background:**

The “Frame Choices” phase of *Making the Greatest Place* has come to a juncture. Staff seeks input from the Council on how to move into the “Refine Choices” phase.

In June 2008, MPAC and the Metro Council adopted a resolution which articulated six desired outcomes of growth management and investment decisions.

- People live and work in vibrant communities where they can choose to walk for pleasure and to meet their everyday needs.
- Current and future residents benefit from the region's sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.
- People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.
- The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.
- Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.
- The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably.

In order to test which types of policies may be most effective for implementing the 2040 Growth Concept and achieving the six desired outcomes, a number of land use, investment and transportation scenarios were conducted using MetroScope and the travel forecasting model. Results were presented at the October 22 and November 12 joint meetings of MPAC and JPACT. Polling at the October 22 event revealed a degree of agreement amongst the region’s elected officials:

- Centers and corridors remain the areas where we should focus our attention
- We should pursue strategies that help the region to maintain a tight UGB
- There is local support to upzone and focus investments in centers and corridors

After the November 12 event, staff will have additional observations.

We used scenarios in the “Frame Choices” phase to illustrate the consequences of different policy options in order to allow community leaders and elected officials to debate the issues. In other words, the scenarios were a way to elevate the discussion to a political level. Given the level of engagement and policy discussion at the fall events, we have achieved that outcome.

**Proposal:**

At a liaison meeting last week, Councilor Hosticka suggested that additional scenarios may detract from points of regional agreement, focusing attention instead on scenario assumptions and methodologies. Additionally, creating a formal process to identify a set of performance indicators may lead to an overly rigid decision-making framework, confounding the Council and other policy makers’ desire to exercise common sense in making policy decisions that are in keeping with the six desired outcomes.

**Recommendations:**

- Conduct additional analysis of existing scenarios
- Elicit direction from the region on the elements and strategies that should be included in a preferred alternative rather than run a series of hybrid scenarios.
- Use the six desired outcomes to frame policy choices. If necessary, lend greater definition to the desired outcomes with a limited number of performance indicators.
- To provide policy makers with context for making upcoming decisions:
  - Document the region’s past performance, trends, and current conditions.
  - Document megatrends facing the region that may influence residential demand (e.g. changing demographics, fuel prices, public revenue shortages, availability of lending, etc).
- Through the local aspirations work program with local governments, identify the specific policy choices and investments that can be made to bolster centers and corridors.

**Frame Choices: Fall 2008**

October 22, 2008:

Land use and investment scenario findings and implications

November 12, 2008:

Transportation investment scenario findings and implications

December 10, 2008:

Identify elements and strategies to include in the preferred alternative that will inform the RTP, local aspirations, reserves, and investments tracks of *Making the Greatest Place*.

**Refine Choices: January – June 2009**

January 2009:

Confirm strategies and elements to include in the preferred alternative with MPAC, JPACT, and the Metro Council

Spring 2009:

Refine preferred alternative and develop investment strategies

**Make choices: July - December 2009**

Adopt RTP, reserves, Urban Growth Report, and investment strategies

 Metro | Memo

Date: November 13, 2008  
To: Metro Council  
From: Deena Platman, Principal Transportation Planner  
Re: Regional Mobility Corridor Atlas Prototypes

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As part of the 2035 RTP process, a new analysis tool is under development to help the region better understand how the different parts of the transportation system work together to move people and goods. The “regional mobility corridor” concept divides the region’s transportation system into geographic sub-areas. Each corridor includes a section of the region’s throughways and arterial streets, transit (both high capacity transit where it exists and 15 minute or better bus service), and multi-use trails that work together to provide cross-regional, statewide and interstate travel. This corridor approach considers multiple facilities, modes, jurisdictions, and land uses with the objective of selecting the most effective mix of strategies to improve mobility. The regional mobility corridor atlas illustrates the elements of each corridor and provides a snapshot of current conditions. The atlas will be used to help inform decision-making during the RTP System Development phase.

In the first phase of the 2035 RTP, Metro staff worked with regional partners to identify 23 regional mobility corridors in the Portland metropolitan area. They agreed on the need to better understand an individual mobility corridor’s elements, function and performance as well as be able to compare performance across multiple mobility corridors in order to identify the most cost-effective strategies and prioritize investments for the transportation system.

Attached with this memo are a map of the regional mobility corridors and two prototypes of the atlas for corridors 5 – Central City to Gateway and 22 – Hwy 217 to North Plains. The development of the atlas has been directed by a work group of TPAC and MTAC members, and other key stakeholders.

At the 11/19/08 work session, Council members will have an opportunity to provide direction to staff regarding refinements to the regional mobility corridor concept and atlas prototype. Questions for Metro Council include:

1. Is the regional mobility corridor concept a useful tool to inform Council decision making as the RTP progresses?
2. Does the Council have refinements to the regional mobility corridor atlas prototypes as presented?