

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (excused)

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

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 11, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Council President Liberty reviewed the December 11, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Harrington expressed concerns about briefings regarding non-system licenses on the December 11, 2008 Council agenda. Michael Jordan, COO, talked about possible state agency budget cuts including agency staff cuts. Councilor Harrington discussed comparisons to past recessions and budget cuts. Mr. Jordan said this specific time, the budget cycle was approached differently because it was going into a legislative session, and the recession had impacts in proposed budgets. Mr. Jordan talked about revenue and budget projects and subsequent dynamics involved.

2. TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT FUNDING AGREEMENT

Megan Gibb, Planning and Development, introduced and discussed Metro's intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with TriMet. She discussed "housekeeping" items involved and changes involved in the IGA. She said changes would be presented to the Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) to seek advice. She discussed forward timelines. Councilor Park asked why staff recommended the change. Ms. Gibb said it created better efficiency, and that updates were not necessarily needed every two years. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed the IGA's role in managing the program.

3. 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Kim Ellis, Planning and Development, introduced the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) agenda item. She discussed implementation and transportation and land-use investment strategies. She talked about long-term investment and funding strategies – at local, state, and federal levels. She discussed connections to the 2040 Growth Concept and cost targets. Councilor Harrington asked about the Regional Mobility Corridor Atlas's role as a work-in-progress. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about investments in operations and management. Ms. Ellis said it was intended to capture all categories. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed contextualizing different items of the RTP investment strategy. Councilor Collette asked about investment scenarios. Councilor Harrington talked about cause-and-effects and policy levers, including throughway scenarios. Ms. Ellis talked about system and community access investments, including intrastate movement. Ms. Ellis talked about regional transportation interests as well as transportation access to various community centers.

Councilor Burkholder discussed variations in trip models and conceptualizing length of travel or trip versus purpose of travel or trips. He thought “purpose” might serve as a more accurate gauge for transportation investment and subsequent discussions. Councilor Burkholder was further interested in examining how bicycle transport could be used as a model and tool. Councilor Harrington asked about a scenario investigating bus-only investment. She was not aware of a study or scenario that explained cost specifics of such a scenario. Councilor Park talked about the connection between centers, the RTP, and ridership and land-use. Councilor Collette was unsure how to model a key issue such as purpose of trips. She talked about demand management. Deputy Council President Liberty agreed with the fiscal budget approach to investments. He talked about system management and referenced Councilor Burkholder’s discussion of trip purpose. Councilor Hosticka discussed taking away from base-case scenarios, and whether such a scenario had occurred or been developed. He talked about modeling negative scenarios. Deputy Council President Liberty talked about inclusion of income in land-use scenarios. Ms. Ellis talked about agreement if an exercise such as scorecard indicators were introduced. Councilor Burkholder said components outside of the RTP process existed (such as high-capacity transit components), and nothing should be treated as a “done deal.” Deputy Council President Liberty said an important question was what sort of analysis should be prepared for the future.

Councilor Hosticka asked how to avoid dueling numbers, especially in population projections. Andy Cotugno, Metro Advisor, discussed base-case numbers regarding westside versus eastside growth. Mr. Jordan discussed managing numbers throughout the RTP and 2040 Growth Concept process. He discussed conversations with community stakeholders regarding desired community outcomes and subsequent turbulence. He said outcomes were both qualitative as well as quantitative. Councilor Harrington discussed ranges in future projections and numbers. She talked about future aspiration ranges. She said Metro was not as politically prepared for the political aspiration step as she had hoped. Deputy Council President Liberty summarized there was need for a higher level of modeling. Councilor Harrington was concerned with local involvement. She said there was a desired involvement level that included actual understanding of content and direction. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about project prioritization and building projects “up” so the process does not rely on a project prioritization list. Councilor Park talked about managing tradeoff discussions.

4. BREAK

5. BRIEFING ON REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUNDING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND DISCUSSION OF PROJECT NARROWING PROCESS

Ted Leybold, Planning and Development, introduced the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) agenda item. Pat Emmerson, Planning and Development, discussed the Regional Flexible Fund Public Comment Period. Ms. Emmerson said there were no highly controversial projects and also a smaller number of projects, which contributed to lower public turnout numbers. Ms. Emmerson talked about the broad range of constituents who contributed comment. She said the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program received a lot of comment attention. She further highlighted the “2010-2013 Regional flexible fund allocation Public comment executive summary.” Councilor Burkholder asked if comments were specific. Ms. Emmerson said yes. Councilor Park asked about “flavor” of the opposition. Ms. Emmerson said most opposition consisted of geographical placement of different projects and this could be due to miscommunications. Deputy Council President Liberty asked what staff “made” of public comment. Ms. Emmerson said people cared and were interested. Deputy Council President Liberty asked how public comment was used. Councilor Collette asked if there were specific

groups targeted in outreach – so that all groups were given the same opportunity. Mr. Leybold talked about technical evaluations of projects, and distribution of funds throughout the region. He discussed various project tiers in connection to policy objectives. He asked if there were alternative methods for presentation the Council would rather see. Councilor Collette preferred presentations consisting of a list with flexibility. Councilor Harrington asked what it would mean if none of the project development programs were funded. Councilor Burkholder would prefer a single list with narrowing criteria for presentation to the Council. He said it needed to be as simple as possible.

6. SOLID WASTE TRANSPORT CONTRACT EARLY START

Teri Dresler, Environmental Services Director, and Paul Ehinger, Financial and Administrative Services, discussed specifics of transport contracts. She said there were concerns about issues that could arise and point negatively at Metro. Mr. Ehinger presented pictures of deficient equipment. He talked about current conditions in looking forward. He said there were current contractors anxious to help with new equipment, and discussed specifics of current transport contracts. He said contracts included performance standards so that consistency was ensured across the board.

Councilor Burkholder said he found problems with the fact that current contractors did not fulfill their contract obligations in ensuring equipment was up-to-date. He found fault in paying higher fees for the same service. Mr. Ehinger explained past history with the specific contractor. Councilor Park said it was relevant to approach the contract as a business agreement rather than a political one – where Metro treads lightly and does not step on toes. He said if a violation existed, Metro should act accordingly. Mr. Ehinger agreed, but wanted to ensure minimal potential financial impacts to the public. Councilor Harrington asked about tonnage and options. Councilor Collette asked about rate increases. Councilor Hosticka asked about liability issues involved with environmental risks. Marv Fjordbeck, OMA, explained defending liability claims and contractor obligations and risks. Councilor Park asked about contract terms and obligations, especially with an underperforming contractor. Councilors looked forward to a staff recommendation.

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Burkholder discussed the headquarters hotel and current challenges and events. He explained some of the exaggerations portrayed in the media. Councilor Park discussed the role of regional partners and their importance in moving forward. Councilor Harrington asked about other timeline sequences in furthering the hotel project. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed the Regional Housing Choice Fund.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Liberty adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
DECEMBER 9, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	12/11/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, December 11, 2008	120908cw-1
5	Packet	12/9/08	Transportation projects and programs, 2010-13, Regional Flexible Fund Allocation, Public comment executive summary, December 2008	120908cw-2
5	Memo	12/8/08	To: JPACT, Metro Council and Interested Parties From: Ted Leybold, MTIP Manager Re: TPAC Recommendation: 2010-13 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation Narrowing Process	120908cw-3
7	Statement	12/9/08	Headquarters Hotel, Messages of the Day, December 9, 2008	120908cw-4
7	Statement	12/9/08	HQ Hotel Talking Points, December 9, 2008	120908cw-5