

Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS | December 2008

Kathryn Harrington represents District 4, which includes Northern Washington County, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Northwest Beaverton, Aloha, Rock Creek, Bonny Slope, Bethany, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills.



Thank you to those who participate

As your Metro Councilor, I have the opportunity to interact regularly with residents of our neighborhoods, our cities, Washington County and our region.

I meet frequently with neighborhood groups, city councils, boards, planning commissions, and business groups, plus folks often reach out to me by telephone or e-mail. I appreciate and thank you for your interest, your feedback and your attention to matters in your neighborhood and larger community.

One of the things that makes government in Oregon unique is our strong culture of public involvement. Both by law and by choice, we try to engage and involve citizens in as many aspects of government as possible. Only by interacting frequently and substantially with you can we be sure we are moving our policies in the right direction. While it is essential that everyone pay attention and vote in elections, it is equally important to participate between elections!

We learn a great deal from those providing citizen input at open houses such as those on Urban and Rural Reserves, and at public listening posts and public hearings, such as on transportation project funding opportunities like the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). We also enjoy the wisdom and creativity of citizen representatives volunteering on various Metro committees. Thank you for contributing your interest and contributing your voice.

In addition, Oregonians have a long history of contributing to their community through volunteer work. In my work as your Metro Councilor, I can see how we benefit from the many volunteers involved with the Oregon Zoo, at natural area restoration areas, the Native Plant Center, and as wildlife monitors. Thank you for contributing your time and physical energy to improving our public places and resources.

Whether we meet in community meetings, through project work or formal public hearings – thank you for participating. It makes a difference!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.

– Kathryn Harrington



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High Capacity Transit System Plan enters screening phase – District 4

Feedback from residents, businesses, community organizations and elected officials identified 192 potential connections in approximately 55 corridors around the region. Suggestions were requested as part of the update to the Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. Metro is currently working to screen and evaluate viable corridors for the next phase of public review and input.

The system plan will help to prioritize high capacity transit investments in new corridors and changes to existing corridors over the next 30 years. The system plan tells Metro where the best locations are for major rail and bus transit capital investments based on evaluation criteria

derived from the Regional Transportation Plan. The results will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan, the Portland metropolitan area's blueprint for a multi-modal transportation system.

During July through November, more than 50 stakeholders were interviewed, more than 150 people attended public workshops and more than 200 people were informed about the project and offered suggestions at farmers markets and other public events. More than 200 people participated in an interactive questionnaire on Metro's web site from Aug. 12 to Oct. 1, 2008. District 4 was represented by online survey respondents; participants at the Hillsboro public workshop and Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce workshop; and interviews with Intel, Pacific University, Portland Community College, Washington County and Elders in Action.

The screening process will assess potential corridors based on existing and future potential ridership, corridor availability and cost, environmental impacts, equity considerations, connectivity to the current system, congestion reduction, and support for regional 2040 land-use designations, among other measures. It is estimated that 10 to 20 viable corridors will pass the screening criteria and be evaluated at a more detailed level.

In spring 2009, Metro will share evaluation results with the public and begin discussing tradeoffs, choices and priorities. An interactive web survey and other public outreach events will happen at this time.

To learn more about the system plan or to sign up for project updates, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

When the animals go to bed, the lights come out to play: the 21st annual ZooLights festival kicks off

The Zoo lights are back with more than a million bright bulbs illuminating the zoo for the 21st annual ZooLights festival, beginning Nov. 29th at 5 p.m. This family tradition, presented by the Boeing Company, features life-size animal silhouettes and moving light sculptures on display throughout the zoo. Families can expect to see their old favorites as well as some new surprises - including unicorns, dinosaurs and an animated, roaring lion in honor of the upcoming Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, scheduled to open in 2009.

Other new displays include dinosaurs, a baby elephant and a California condor chick, which are only a few of the new features this year. The most impressive is that many of the lights are made of LED's, which use about a tenth of the power of normal iridescent bulbs.

Music fans can enjoy the highly animated light silhouette of Mick Jaguar, who performs near the picnic area with his all-star animal band, including: Packy Pachyderm tickling the ivories, Richard Lion playing guitar, Gerri Giraffe on bass, Billy Bear on trumpet, Orville Orangutan on drums and Willy Wildebeest on sax. The Ostrich Sisters add backing vocals. Live music will resound throughout the zoo as well, with more than 100 schools, churches, professional groups and local dance troupes performing holiday musical selections.

Popular costumed characters and elves will greet zoo visitors and pose for pictures. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is one of the many popular guests for kids. Some of the zoo's animals will also be visible, including mountain goats, elephants, primates, and approachable sheep and goats.

To see a preview of the light display, visit www.oregonzoo.org/Events/ZooLights/preview.htm.



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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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