

Councilor Burkholder is continually updating his contact list, so you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time. If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or wish to be taken off this list, please contact Kathryn Sofich at [kathryn.sofich@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:kathryn.sofich@oregonmetro.gov). [Requires that your e-mail be set to HTML view.]



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Rex Burkholder represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, North Portland, Northeast Portland, downtown Portland, a portion of Southwest Portland and a portion of Southeast Portland.

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### **1. A message from Rex Burkholder**

On January 8th, I was inaugurated to serve my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as the Metro Councilor for District 5. I had an opportunity to both reflect what I and Metro have been able to accomplish and to share my goals for the next 4 years. Below sums up what I said.

My last eight years as a member of the Metro Council were some of the best of my professional life. It's not often that you get a chance to help shape the lives of over 1 million people. I am very proud of many things that Metro has done in that time to make all our lives better and this a greater place to live, work and raise our families. I am also lucky to work with such progressive colleagues.

Here are some of the initiatives I've been excited to work on:

I have led the Rethinking of our Regional Transportation Plan update. This will result in a plan

that will enhance our lives and communities. In this update we are focusing on choices, fixing what we have, and ensuring that our transportation system supports our vision and goals, as well as serve our communities.

As chair of Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) for the last 4 years, I have increased collaboration, helping Metro to be the regional table around which community leaders collaboratively solve the vexing issues we face.

I was one of the founders of several committees that bring a range of jurisdictions together to address common issues. The Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) To provides a forum for Oregon's MPOs to address common needs, issues and solutions to transportation and land use challenges facing Oregon's metropolitan regions and surrounding areas and allows for the MPOs to work together to advocate on importance issues facing Oregon's MPOs. I am also co-chair of the Bi-State Coordinating Committee which provides a venue for the Metro region and Southwest Washington to work together on land-use and transportation issues of bi-state significance.

For our future generations, I worked with the Council to provide around \$1 million dollars a year to fund Outdoor School. Providing this additional funding was an important step to ensure a permanent funding source for Outdoor School in the Metro region, something I've been working on for the last four years with other supporters of this wonderful, effective and very Oregon program.

I sponsored legislation to sharpen Metro's focus on sustainability, both in our own house and for the region to achieve the triple goals of a strong economy that benefits everyone while protecting and restoring the natural world.

All this is good preparation for the great challenge ahead. Climate Change is perhaps the Great Struggle of our time. Unless we act now, and forcefully, the consequences of climate change will destroy all that we value so highly. I believe that elected leaders – at all levels of government – have a responsibility take action to reduce governments' carbon emissions and to help people and businesses do the same.

Responding to climate change means re-imagining just about all we do. This includes how we get around, how we build our houses, where we get our food, where we take our trash.

That is why I initiated and am leading Metro's Climate Change Action Strategy. We must be willing to be creative and open to new ideas, for there is much we can do that will save us money, clean our air, improve our health and safety and put people back to work—while reducing CO2 emissions. This is where this region has the advantage, with Metro uniquely empowered by the people to do just this, take on tough challenges and support leadership. For example, we spend something like \$2 Billion a year less than our peers on transportation because we drive less, we are the number 1 bike city, and we use transit much more than similar regions.

But there is more we can, and must, do. And it's my goal to see that Metro take its regional leadership role to the next level and revolutionize how we all think and act on a daily basis to not only lead less carbon-consumptive lives, but also live fuller, happier lives. Through working towards developing a Regional Climate Action Strategy, we will:

Understand the problem and opportunities through regional GHG emissions inventory, one of first in the nation on a regional scale;

Share information and collaborate with the many governments, businesses and individuals concerned about this issue;

Integrate Oregon's GHG reduction goals, adopted in 2007 by the Legislature to guide our work to update the region's 50 year growth and transportation plans;

Make sure Metro's operations and activities, such as OCC and Oregon Zoo, continue to lead on this as well as other sustainability measures.

To conclude, I want to say that while the climate change crisis is indeed a crisis that can seem overwhelming at times, it is also a challenge that is laced with opportunity – opportunity to prosper economically, opportunity for gains in public health and wellness, opportunity for us here in the Portland region to be seen and known as a national leader on how to 'do it right.' We will need your help--your smarts, your hard work, your insistence that we do what is necessary, and your best wishes.

I wish you the best for 2009.

- *Rex Burkholder*

## **2. Public weighs in on regional transportation funding**

A 45-day public comment period on allocating regional flexible transportation funding for 2010-13 closed at noon on December 1, 2008. Regional flexible funds come from two federal funding categories established by Congress—the Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds. These funds are administered in the Portland metropolitan region by Metro, and a total of \$67.8 million is expected to be available during the 2010-13 funding cycle.

A new, two-step process for allocating regional flexible funds was developed by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) after extensive stakeholder and community input. During Step 1, JPACT identified nine regional programs and recommended that \$46.14 million be apportioned among them, subject to public comment.

During Step 2, local jurisdictions and agencies submitted 26 competitive applications to fund projects that totaled \$57.8 million in requested funding—about twice the \$21.65 million expected to be available. Public comments will help narrow the project list to more closely match the available funding.

In total Metro received 797 comments as letters, emails, comment forms, online and written summaries of oral comments offered at four public "listening posts." Of that total, 574 comments—72 percent of the total—came in through the Metro web site. Regardless of category, projects that featured bicycle, trail and pedestrian improvements garnered the most support, accounting for 553 (69%) of all the comments received.

Next, the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), a technical committee that provides recommendations to JPACT, is scheduled to make its final draft recommendation by February 2, 2009, for further public review and comment. On February 12, 2009, JPACT and the Metro Council are scheduled to hold a public hearing on the recommendations before JPACT and the Metro Council consider approval in early March.

For more about the regional flexible transportation fund process, the candidate projects, and updates to the decision making schedule, visit the project website at: [www.oregonmetro.gov/regionalflexiblefund](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/regionalflexiblefund). You may also call 503-797-1551 to request e-mail updates about the funding process.

### **3. Swales and Rain Gardens at Green Building Week**

Metro is offering another session in its popular “Green from the Ground Up” series. Designed to help builders learn more about nature-friendly design practices, the series features a number of green development techniques and demonstrates how to add value to projects while preserving and enhancing a property’s natural assets.

The next session, to be held Tuesday, January 27, focusing on rain gardens and swales, will be lead by Paul Dedyo of KPFF Engineering, Kevin Robert Perry of Nevue Ngan Associates, and Alan Hipolito of Verde.

Dedyo is a LEED-accredited senior civil engineer who specializes in innovative sustainable site planning and design. His extensive experience in stormwater drainage and utility design includes rainwater harvesting, low-impact stormwater management and hydraulic/hydrologic modeling. His firm, KPFF, designed the sustainable stormwater management systems at the New Columbia and Humboldt Gardens developments.

Perry, whose prior work with the City of Portland’s Sustainable Stormwater Management Program helped city policy makers develop a toolbox of design strategies, has designed several of Portland’s most prominent green street and rain garden demonstration projects, including the award winning SW 12th Avenue and the NE Siskiyou Green Streets.

Verde is a Portland-based non-profit organization that focuses on improving the economic health of disadvantaged communities as well as fostering the connection between economic vitality and environmental protection and restoration.

The session runs from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel on NE Multnomah Street. Dedyo will speak about the physical aspects of design including sizing and hydrology, and Perry, a landscape architect, and will address soil mixes and plant selection. Hipolito, whose firm maintains swales and other stormwater facilities and is often called upon to correct problems when city inspections prevent a builder from obtaining approval, will focus how to avoid pitfalls during construction.

Builders, developers, and landscape architects, as well as civil engineers, planners and jurisdiction staff who review building and development plans and permit applications, are encouraged to attend.

Rain gardens and swales are relatively simple techniques that have practical applications in many types of developments. They capture rainwater that runs off from hard surfaces and allows it to slowly filter into the ground. Native plants filter out pollutants and clean water before it moves “downstream,” therefore protecting water quality and keeping local streams and rivers healthy for people, fish and wildlife.

The session will cover their applicability, benefits and costs, and will also demonstrate how to

install and maintain them. Case studies will include new developments and redevelopment or retrofits.

Metro's "Green from the Ground Up" seminars are designed to inspire developers and builders to adopt nature-friendly practices into their repertoire in order to make them become part of standard designing and building. The sessions provide a higher level of education and provide the information needed to use these practices. Seminars also provide a forum for idea sharing and for people to connect in the interest of furthering nature-friendly design practices.

To register, contact [www.homebuildersportland.org/calendar](http://www.homebuildersportland.org/calendar) or call 503-684-1880.

#### **4. Events of Note in the District**

##### **Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class**

Wednesday, January 21

*7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

In autumn, half a million ducks, geese and swans fly over the region's wetlands and tens of thousands stay to spend the winter. Waterfowl, among the region's most abundant and diverse groups of wintering birds, are easy to identify. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis to find out who's who in this large group of beautiful birds. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4.

##### **Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**

Saturday, January 24

*10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

It's a waterfowl wonderland with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter in the area. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons. This is also the best time of year to see bald eagles and other birds of prey. Meet naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration is free, but advance registration required; call 503-797-1850 option 4.

##### **Midwinter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area**

Sunday, January 25

*noon to 3 p.m.*

Explore this 2,000-acre wetland from the water. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip due to low water levels. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Emily at 503-235-6272.

#### **5. Councilor Rex Burkholder's Contact Information**

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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.

Your Metro representatives  
Metro Council President David Bragdon  
Metro Councilors  
Rod Park, District 1  
Carlotta Collette, District 2  
Carl Hosticka, District 3  
Kathryn Harrington, District 4  
Rex Burkholder, District 5  
Robert Liberty, District 6  
Auditor Suzanne Flynn

For more information, call the Metro Council at (503) 797-1540, fax (503) 797-1793 or send e-mail to [metro council@oregonmetro.org](mailto:metro council@oregonmetro.org). The hearing impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804.