

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

### **Objectives:**

- Approve 2009-2011 Regional Road Map
- Review and discuss findings from economic and employment trends research and focus group sessions
- Discuss local aspirations process and desired outcomes of workshops and other outreach
- Review and discuss urban and rural reserves work program and initial screen results
- Get input for agenda items for upcoming Making the Greatest Place work sessions

### **Agenda:**

1. Approve 2009-2011 Regional Road Map for public distribution (10 min) (Robin McArthur)
  - Road Map (attached)
  - Question:  
Do you approve releasing this Road Map for public distribution?

Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, introduced the Making the Greatest Place work session agenda. She began discussion on the 2009-2011 Regional Road Map. She described timelines and processes involved (see "Regional Roadmap" material in packet). She said it was important to contextualize regional future plans, and the Road Map acted as a mechanism. She talked about a preliminary 20-year growth report. Councilor Liberty asked about range forecasts. Ms. McArthur talked about investment timelines. Councilor Harrington asked about other "Making the Greatest Place" materials to complement and contextualize the 2009-2011 Regional Road Map. Councilor Harrington recommended maps and engagement architecture materials to include with the Road Map. President Bragdon said the Road Map made sense, and wanted to hear other Council views. Councilor Collette felt uncomfortable with a staff draft, as to maintain formality. President Bragdon asked how the Council would compile materials. Councilor Harrington asked for clarification. Councilor Liberty said he felt a Council draft should be distributed, rather than a staff draft. Councilor Harrington said starting points could be difficult. She said there was value in the Council releasing a draft, so staff was not responsible for public backlash. Councilor Park felt more comfortable with the Council releasing something – whether it a draft, or published materials. Councilor Hosticka said he felt the draft should be a product of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) as the Council was a legislative body and should review recommendations. He said they were trying to close reserves discussions, and open boundary discussions. He did not want to mix discussions. Councilor Collette said it should feel like a Metro document. She said she wanted to know about intentional use of the draft document. Councilor Liberty said it was important to have an integrated document. He said the point was more than symbolism. He said focusing on the COO's recommendation was not comfortable, and

felt recommendations from Councilors integrated with various proposals was a more encompassing approach, especially in capturing elected viewpoints. President Bragdon said processes could send mixed messages, if Council were to endorse a decision and then ask for public input. Councilor Park discussed owning up to decisions. Councilor Burkholder asked if recommendations involved input for revision, or if recommendations were directional and action-oriented. Councilors agreed to distribute.

2. Review Economic and Employment Trends (60 min) (Malu Wilkinson and Eric Hovee)
  - Summary of Metro's economic and employment trends work (attached)
  - Overview of economic and employment trends: focus groups, past trends, literature review (sent under separate cover)
  - Question:  
What topics would you like the business representatives to address at the Employment Roundtable?

Malu Wilkinson, Planning and Development, introduced the economic and employment trends agenda item. Eric Hovee, Consultant, presented a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). He discussed slides and project status. Councilor Liberty asked about built capacity and use. Councilor Park asked how to compare with other national regions. Mr. Hovee said the Metropolitan region was comparable to the Seattle metro-area region. Dennis Yee, Metro Economist, said the Metropolitan region compared closely to many other national regions, because of job growth trends. Councilor Collette asked about lack of agriculture inclusion. Mr. Hovee said focus groups were more focused on activities within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Councilor Burkholder said three topics not included in the "Global Risks and Opportunities" were energy, climate change, and water supply and subsequent impacts. Mr. Yee asked about regional clusters and geography. Councilor Liberty asked who was at the table. He asked about economic cost-effectiveness for business and industry placement. Councilor Hosticka asked about regional differentiating – throughout the Metro region, or compared to other regions. Councilor Liberty asked whether anyone had raised the question regarding the Metro region's identity and role in the global community and region (see attachments). Councilor Burkholder asked about regional job movement. Councilor Hosticka said forecasting questions was important for clarification and presentation. Councilor Liberty asked about dispersion patterns throughout the region, specifically relating to centers and corridor projections. He asked about manufacturing numbers. Councilor Hosticka said more discussion was required to evaluate what had happened and what should and could happen.

Councilor Burkholder talked about requesting decreased site footprints and tying that to less automobile use. He asked about mechanisms for purchasing land and "saving it." Councilor Liberty said it was important to frame range predictions and forecasts, including looking at and comparing predictions made in the 1950s. He said it was important to ask about levels of uncertainty. He asked if there was enough information to compare across sectors. He also discussed issues with water and climate change. Councilor Harrington wanted further information on summary outlooks and aspirations. She said certain areas and "players" had identities and capabilities, and she was getting a sense for different subareas in the region. She did not know if there was any formal qualification for such "subareas." She said dealing with the longer-term, she wanted consistency with forecasting 40 to 50 years into the future. Councilor Park said it was important to differentiate between fact and focus group opinion. He talked about want versus need, from a policy perspective – and whether Metro had the ability to meet every need. Councilor Collette also discussed "wish" versus need. She talked about San Jose case studies regarding revitalization and sustaining large industrial campuses. Councilor Liberty discussed

tension surrounding the idea of “expansion.” Councilor Harrington said it was important to ask business leaders what they thought the role and identity of the region was. She said it was important to hear their viewpoint.

Break (10 min)

3. Discuss Status of Local Aspirations Work (45 min) (Chris Deffebach, Tony Mendoza and Karen Withrow)
  - Overview of objectives and schedule (attached)
  - Products
  - Ongoing assistance
  - Question:  
How do we communicate with each other as we receive information from local governments?

Chris Deffebach, Planning and Development, discussed the Growth Management Decision process - including decision, framing, assessment, and commitment. She explained activity spectrums, and articulated its use as a tool. She discussed “State of the Centers” materials and said the question “where do we want to go?” should be included in the materials. She talked about aspiration results, and said there was variation. She said cities were all in different places in respective processes. Councilor Liberty asked if cities and counties were doing research on past forecasts and trends. Councilor Collette said she wanted to know about the communication channels between staff and electeds regarding aspirations. Ms. Deffebach explained steps in the Growth Management Decisions process. Councilor Park said there were local aspirations, but there were also market and business issues, as well as amenity issues. He said it was not Metro’s decision, but a product of market choices. Councilor Liberty talked about modeling behavior for other cities. Councilor Harrington said it was very important to identify dependencies, especially in discussions surrounding aspirations.

Leila Aman, Planning and Development, talked about framing aspirations and defining key players. She talked about providing direction for jurisdictional aspiration, including outlining available resources. She said it was important to build upon successes, and identify key challenges. Ms. McArthur discussed High Capacity Transit priorities throughout the region and various analyses throughout the region. Ms. Deffebach talked about collecting information and documenting impact fees, including identification of barriers.

Councilor Harrington asked about credit systems for cities and jurisdictions. She asked about parcelization. Karen Withrow, Communications, discussed HCT workshops and content. Councilor Harrington said it was not only about density, but also connectivity. She said this would affect timing of construction and use of facilities. President Bragdon appreciated toolkit application to jurisdictions to serve aspirations. Councilor Burkholder talked about local aspirations playing into urban growth decisions. Ms. Deffebach concluded by discussing commitment processes.

4. Urban and Rural Reserves Work Program (45 min) (John Williams)
  - Reserves Steering Committee 2009 Agenda Items (attached)
  - Urban and Rural Reserves Initial Screening Results
  - Framing Growth Forecasts in the context of Urban Reserves
  - Question:  
What comments do you have on the initial screening results?

Councilor Harrington introduced the Reserves Work Program. John Williams, Regional Planning and Development, discussed initial screening processes. He said there would be a public outreach phase after initial screenings. He said suitability acted as criteria for analyzing candidate areas. He described timelines for Reserve work plans. Councilor Liberty asked about forecast decisions. He asked about engagement and guiding principles, and population forecasts in relation to land consumption. Councilor Hosticka asked when and where guiding principles became part of the reserves process. He said a discussion should be had over the phrase “urban and rural reserves.” He said there should not be gray areas. Councilor Liberty discussed visual logistics.

Councilor Harrington talked about suitability of lands and data. She said it was important to see the information and discuss. Councilors discussed being properly briefed before meetings, and having enough time to discuss reserves issues during Greatest Place work session meetings. Councilor Harrington requested an outline of policy questions along the way. Councilor Park talked about range forecasts and capacity – he said there had not been a discussion on how that affected aspirations. Councilor Liberty talked about the Urban Growth Report (UGR) developing a trend.

5. Other Issues (10 min) (Robin McArthur)
  - Infrastructure Analysis Update (memo attached)
  - Input on agenda for February 18 Making the Greatest Place Work Session
    - Regional Transportation Plan Schedule for 2009 and Outstanding Policy Issues to be addressed (Kim Ellis)
    - Recap from joint MPAC/JPACT meetings and MPAC and JPACT review (memo attached) (Andy Cotugno and Robin McArthur)
    - (Note: High Capacity Transit is on the February 10 Council Work Session agenda)

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Harrington adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen  
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2	Powerpoint presentation	2/4/09	Employment and Economic Trends Analysis Powerpoint presentation, February 4, 2009	020409cw-1