

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Robert Liberty

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:04 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 19, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the March 19, 2009 Metro Council agenda. President Bragdon brought to the table TVCTV this Thursday asking if we need to compile a cohesive question(s). Councilor Hosticka asked where these people are coming from. President Bragdon discussed the Travel Portland event/dinner at Portland Center Stage. COO Michael Jordan mentioned that there will be an executive session following the business on the agenda.

2. WILLAMETTE RIVER BRIDGE

Neal McFarland executive director of big projects and Dave Unsworth both TriMet employees presented on the Willamette river bridge. Mr. McFarland said the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project FTA approval is nearing any day. Mr. McFarland covered upcoming dates pertaining to the project. Budget becomes the biggest area of interest. Councilor Park asked for an estimated cost? Mr. McFarland said 1.4 billion, having already spent nine million in funds coming from various organizations. Mr. McFarland said we need to get to 30% prior to public private. Mr. Unsworth then presented the issues that we are confronting prior to reaching the 30% and moving ahead; The costs of acquiring more land, bus circulation issues, the Willamette River Bridge advisory committee and the steering committee, with architect groups Rosales +Partners both as primes. Mr. Unsworth continued to explain all of the variables and risks that were explored through the process in the last year. Cost Estimates were then covered for the three most popular designs. President Bragdon asked where the “4 piers” located are. Mr. Unsworth said on-land allowing for a shorter span and therefore less cost. President Bragdon asked why there is a height issue with the towers. Councilor Collette asked if they are trying to look more like the St. Johns Bridge. Mr. McFarland said the main issue is the esthetics of the bridge in the Portland area. He mentioned the mayor being interested in lighting the bridge but that most likely will not be in the budget. They expect to be finished with preliminary engineering spring of 2010 and at best construction would begin 2011-2015. The rest of the information is located at Trimet.org/pm.

Councilor Burkholder said he is glad about the progress, and that the cost isn't extreme, also asking what is width of bike/pedestrian area? Mr. McFarland said 12-13' depending on where the cables would be located, people are asking for a 14-15' of pedestrian space considering this bridge is not for cars. Councilor Burkholder also asked what the name is going to be. President Bragdon asked Mr. McFarland to speak about design-build formula for success on this project. Also asking if there be risk/reward incentives throughout the project for the parties involved in the build and design? Mr. McFarland said there would be, although different than the one that was mentioned in Minnesota. HNTB is the design firm that will be the experts on the build but there will be a different team that comes in and does the actual build.

President Bragdon asked if TriMet had used design-build as a model before. Mr. McFarland said yes, multiple times i.e. PDX light rail and interstate projects. President Bragdon inquired to how the 'federal part' takes place. Mr. McFarland explained it is as President Bragdon thought, a "full-court press" back and forth with the financial outcome making it worth it. Councilor Harrington thanked the gentlemen for all the care to everyone involved with the design details. Although this is not in her district she knows we all appreciate it. Councilor Harrington also asked, if there is a catastrophe, and we lose service on the Steel bridge can we re-route the max lines to use the new bridge. Councilor Collette thanked both gentleman and TriMet for how they have dealt with her district and the region. She also asked, if there is an excess in budget will that money be available for Park Avenue? Mr. McFarland said no, we will be just about reaching the full budget. Councilor Park asked if will there be emergency vehicle access. Mr. McFarland said yes, the surface area for the light rail will be drivable for vehicles in the case of an emergency.

3. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS PLAN

Jim Peters, DSK Associates consultant/manager, and Deena Platman Metro principal transportation planner, presented on the 2035 Regional Transportation plan. Ms. Platman covered the plan outcomes, the major projects and schedule for this year. Councilor Harrington asked about where we see ourselves in terms of evolutionary technology generations, in order to see where we are, have been, and where we will be in 5 years. Councilor Park asked about stimulus money and how many intersections are going to be effected. Ms. Platman said that already 277 intersections, about 12% of the intersections in the region, that are not current on technology have already been updated through their work. The financial amount is six million dollars over four years. Councilor Burkholder asked who is in charge and what are they really trying to achieve.

Ms. Platman then moved to the next section covering Advisory Groups, discussing how they are trying to look beyond operations and cars in a manner that involves all interested groups from the region. Mr. Peters spoke about the positive outcomes of timing 11 signals together on one street, both financial and congestion. Councilor Harrington asked about pedestrian safety. Councilor Burkholder said the Regional Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) will be asked a lot of this investment. She also said, we are "here" and want to be "there," asking how likely we will get to 80% saturation of needed improvements and will there be the return-on-investment hoped for. Councilor Harrington asked how we educate the public on the updates that will be put in place. Can we get a list of the benefits that will come from these projects? Councilor Collette asked if we are staying current. Stating that we want to make sure that we aren't doing this work to find out that it is already out of date. Councilor Park said we need a way to measure the outcomes of the projects. Asking if we will be able to work with UPS or FedEx again and see if the work does make improvements. Councilor Harrington would like to see the word "community" in the projects because that is the purpose of the RTP, 'helping our community.'

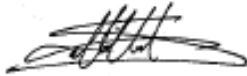
4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka discussed the legislative update via email from Randy Tucker, Metro. The first topic was the language of the bill, background checks at the zoo are ongoing with the fee amount continuing to rise, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is supporting pre-completion tolling of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC), the

jurisdictional boundary bill looks like it is also going to move. The general transportation package is being worked on behind closed doors; Mr. Tucker is still working to get the Metro off-road trails into the package. The bill on the Headquarters Hotel did get printed but there is no word on how it will do. President Bragdon asked what we, as citizens can do to change the paradigm of the way the stimulus dollars are allocated in the state. Are there ways we can meet with the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and have influence on the way it's handled making sure that deserving areas are not left out, especially in our region? Councilor Harrington said she is hearing a lot of different reactions and discussions in her district regarding greenhouse gas reductions and climate change, and wants to know where the other councilors are with their discussions. Councilor Burkholder said there will be a short presentation March 31st regarding greenhouse gasses in Silicon Valley. President Bragdon will be meeting with Rate Review this Thursday. President Bragdon said, pay-as-you-go has been something that the council has followed for a long time, do we need to look at possibly changing that this year with the rate increases.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hand', written over a faint circular stamp.

Scott Hand
Policy Associate

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
March 17, 2009**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	03/19/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, March 19, 2009	031709cw-1
1	Agenda	03/18/09	Agenda: Metro Council Greatest Place Work Session, March 18, 2009	031709cw-2
2	Handout	02/01/09	Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project; Willamette River Bridge Type Selection Process	031709cw-3
3	Worksheet	03/17/09	Work Session Worksheet: Regional Transportation System Management and Operations(TSMO) Plan	031709cw-4