

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Carlotta Collette (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MAY 21, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the May 21, 2009 Metro Council agenda. Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Robinson discussed the opportunity for Metro, Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo to purchase with the help of grants ten electric car charging stations to be located at the Metro locations. Councilor Hosticka asked how long it takes to charge those cars. Mr. Robinson also discussed the option as Metro moved forward with the electric cars to purchase various electric cars for its fleet of vehicles. When purchased there would be a couple hybrid vehicles and one full electric car. He also talked about the grant provider asking each recipient to contribute just over seven thousand dollars to assist in the promotion of the new electric charging stations.

2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Margo Norton, director financial and administrative services, announced that the department as of July 1, 2009 changed their name to Finance and Regulatory Services. Ms. Norton then presented the Metro Third Quarter Financial Report. She stated that over all there are not many changes from the quarter two report yet earnings continue to be down. She discussed the differences in revenue funds, bonds, earned interests, and budget assumptions. She talked about the budget shortfalls and excesses from the Zoo, transfer stations, and the Metro regional center. Ms. Norton mentioned that Metro is half way into the fourth quarter and the finance department is watching everything very closely.

Ms. Norton discussed two good news budget amendments, one of which coming from the Oregon Zoo and the other coming from MERC as they both have met and exceeded revenue expectations they needed more funds for operating expenses. Councilor Burkholder asked what the risk level for Metro and Council being able to fund the Blue Lake Golf Learning Center and pay back the loans in a timely manner. Councilor Park asked about the five year plan possibility and that then Metro could show five years of operations at the Learning Center.

3. BREAK

4. HIGH SPEED RAIL

Bill Burgel, HDR, Inc. presented High Speed Rail and the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Burgel discussed the need for mass transit, commuter rail and conventional rail as gas prices continued to rise. He said the catalyst for much of the increased building of rail was the Obama stimulus. Mr. Burgel explained the differences between; light rail, high speed, streetcar, and commuter rail. He talked about the revenue, productivity and volume demand for rail since 1980. President Bragdon asked about safe stopping distances. Mr. Burgel talked about the Federal Railroad Administration Track Classification for both freight and passenger. Councilor Burkholder asked why there is discrepancy between 110 and 111 mile per hour regulation on commuter tracks. Councilor Liberty asked if the weight and safety regulations in the United States for train cars is the reason why speed is not as easy of an option. Councilor Liberty noted the width of the corridors between Portland and Seattle being nearly two hundred feet wide. Mr. Burgel said that is nearly double the width of the track example from Utah. Councilor Liberty and President Bragdon discussed the potential for housing corridors between Portland and Seattle. Councilor Hosticka asked why when Europe and Japan are already far exceeding what we are striving for, why are we spending that much money to not meet the level of where other countries already are.

Lloyd D. Lindley, ASLA, briefly presented a paper he had prepared for Earl Blumenauer regarding high speed passenger rail lines between Eugene and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

5. RTP FUNDING STRATEGY

Andy Cotugno, senior planning advisor, discussed the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation retreat agendas and aspirations that were covered. Mr. Cotugno discussed the 2035 regional transportation plan, road-related funding scenarios. He talked about three different options that have been presented all of which will raise taxes. Councilor Liberty said he would not be comfortable committing to the billions of dollars and twenty dollar per home increases. Councilor Hosticka agreed that twenty dollars was an absurd amount to ask for, and this wish list is just that. Mr. Cotugno transitioned to discussing transit planning in the region. He said there is a larger demand than what Metro had set as its annual minimum. He talked about the different costs for transit planning comparing historical regional light-rail funding shares. Council gave their feedback on the agenda from the JPACT retreat Friday May 22, 2009.

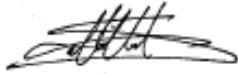
6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka discussed the legislative review from Randy Tucker saying that all Metro interest bills were looking good with exception to the transportation package. Councilor Liberty mentioned the last Construction Excise Tax meeting took place on

Tuesday May 19, 2009. Councilor Harrington presented to Council a memo from Metro Attorney Dick Benner regarding growth projections and distributions.

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

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Hand", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Scott Hand
Policy Associate

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
May 19, 2009

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	05/21/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, May 21, 2009	051909cw-1
2	Budget/Report	05/19/09	2008-2009 Quarterly Report – Third Quarter; January through March 2009	051909cw-2
4	Handout	05/19/09	High Speed Passenger Rail	051909cw-3
5	Handout	05/19/09	2035 Regional Transportation Plan; Road-Related Funding Scenarios	051909cw-4
5	Chart	05/19/09	Past RTP Funding Assumptions	051909cw-5
5	Presentation/ Charts	05/19/09	RTP Projected Service Expansion Increase	051909cw-6
5	Handout	05/19/09	Historical Regional LRT Funding Shares	051909cw-7
5	Memo	05/19/09	To: Metro Council cc: Robin McArthur, John Williams From: Dick Benner Re: Growth projections and distributions	051909cw-8