

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Rex Burkholder, Robert Liberty, Carl Hosticka

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (Council President), Carlotta Collette (excused)

Councilor Kathryn Harrington convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 1:59p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, January 12, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Liberty asked for background information for agenda item 5.1 on the Metro Council Meeting agenda. Councilor Harrington was able to clarify that this Resolution is related to the Greenstreets Manual but also had questions on that item regarding the funding. COO Michael Jordan said he would find out more about this item.

Metro Attorney Dan Cooper initiated a discussion to answer Council's questions on a firearms ordinance. For nearly twenty years Metro has had an ordinance in place prohibiting firearms in the Zoo and other Metro-administered parks, but in reality Metro has no authority to regulate firearms since it is not a City or County, and the Metro ordinance in fact clashes with state law. As a result, Metro will change the ordinance by removing the provisions prohibiting guns in its facilities and stipulate that Metro will enforce the City and County ordinances on firearms.

Councilors and Mr. Cooper continued to discuss the details of the gun laws and how changing the ordinance could affect Metro facilities, especially those not in Multnomah County. Councilors Harrington and Park indicated the importance of knowing how the ordinance will work in all three counties under Metro's jurisdiction, and Councilor Harrington also questioned how unincorporated areas would be affected. Mr. Cooper acknowledged the need for more information on these issues. Councilor Park also mentioned that this issue might be raised to MPAC, and Councilor Hosticka said that we could flag this issue for the legislative agenda. Councilor Liberty said he would not like to see Metro spend its energy fighting gun and gun-control advocates so we need to have all the information on this issue.

2. "SMOKE-FREE METRO" DISCUSSION

Councilor Burkholder gave background on outdoor smoking issues on Metro facilities, reminding the Council that Metro does not have a no-smoking policy for all of its facilities regarding outdoor smoking (indoor is prohibited by state law) and that Metro receives many complaints. These are important health and fire safety issues, and Councilor Burkholder is interested in seeing a "smoke-free Metro". He asked that research be done into the issues of implementation and enforcement of a smoke-free Metro ordinance for all of Metro's diverse facilities, with the eventual aim that such ordinance be implemented. His goal in addressing the Council was mainly to gauge Council support for moving forward with such a ban.

Councilor Park asked how such an ordinance would pertain to facilities that Metro doesn't own, such as PCPA, and would like more information on how each type of facility, such as parks, the Zoo, and the Metro Regional Center, would implement a smoking ban.

Councilor Liberty said that he is unsure whether a ban is necessary in cases where the negative impacts are solely on the smoker.

Councilors continued to discuss the details of the need for a smoking ban and how it might be implemented. Mr. Jordan confirmed that this issue would be brought back to Council with information on how a ban might work in different types of facilities and that information on enforcement and labor negotiations is also necessary.

Councilor Burkholder suggested that an ordinance is needed to set out goals of becoming a smoke-free work place and make Metro's facilities smoke free, and from there individual timelines for implementation could be created for each facility. He acknowledged the need to do research and analysis and said the next step is coming back with more information and a list of options on how to move forward.

Councilor Hosticka raised a concern about creating more unenforced ordinances, suggesting that creating an ordinance and not enforcing it does no good to the community. He would like to have a discussion on this topic.

Councilor Burkholder ended the discussion by recognizing Intern Tom Matney for his help doing research on a smoke-free Metro ordinance.

3. BUDGET ENVIRONMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Jordan stated that this was the first of two budget discussions before a final 2010-11 budget is proposed, and that he wants Councilor's input.

FRS Director Margot Norton gave a summary of the budget environment Metro is in. She indicated that revenue is down and that this is what we need to know as the final budget is crafted.

Budget Coordinator Kathy Rutowski referred Council to the handout and summarized the details of the base budget to date. The conclusion was that there is a not-unexpected shortfall in the budget, due to falling enterprise revenues, increase in labor costs and operating costs, and other reasons.

Councilor Burkholder clarified that the shortfall refers to a projected level of service that the current revenues cannot meet. Councilor Harrington reminded Council that this budget is a work in progress and not yet being proposed. Ms. Rutowski continued to discuss the reasons for the shortfall.

Mr. Jordan referred councilors to a list in the handout of potential alternative ways to balance the budget. Councilors discussed thoughts on Mr. Jordan's list of budget-balancing alternatives.

Councilor Liberty asked about the duration of Metro's budget problems, and pointed out that making one-time budget changes is fine in the short run but that a long-term strategy is needed. Councilor Hosticka asked how we will fill budget holes in the future if we have already used these one-time solutions. Mr. Jordan agreed that this was an important point and that we need to employ strategic thinking in planning. He also discussed how Metro could move forward on a community development-focused agenda in this budget climate: for example, how can we allocate funding an upcoming public investment project and balance the budget? Councilor Harrington mentioned the possibility of extending our "community toolkit." Councilors continued to discuss the public investment project budget issues and strategic thinking on planning for the future of the region.

Mr. Jordan asked for comments on Councilors' views on budget-balancing alternatives. Councilor Burkholder said he'd like to hear about how Clackamas County's switch to a 4-day work week has

affected its budget, and raised the issue of timing in concept planning to ease budget pressure. He shared concern about the possibility of pulling back on the housing fund as a way to save money. Councilor Liberty asked for clarification on what can actually be done with the money in the housing and development funds. Councilor Harrington expressed concern about eliminating MTOCA transfers to MERC because the risks are not clear. Councilor Park asked about estimating tonnage and how it affects the budget.

4. BREAK

5. REVIEW OF DRAFT HCT RESOLUTION

Councilor Harrington asked Ross Roberts and Deborah Redman from the Planning Department about their specific goals in addressing the Council. Mr. Roberts said he wanted Councilors to have a chance to look at the two resolutions (see handouts) before they went to JPACT on Thursday and give an indication that they are headed in the right direction. These resolutions are the first step on HCT corridor planning.

Councilor Park reminded Council that this process was split off from the original RTP process. Councilor Liberty asked about the political influences behind choosing the Barbur corridor instead of the other two options, the Powell corridor and the WES area, and whether that sets precedent for future choices. Mr. Roberts said that the WES area was ruled out early on and that there was more political force backing the Barbur corridor, but that the ultimate reason for choosing Barbur was ridership potential. The Powell corridor could instead be serviced by a Bus Rapid Transit system.

Councilor Harrington asked why these resolutions needed to go to JPACT now. Mr. Roberts and Ms. Redman responded that they would like to take advantage of the momentum among all of the moving parts of the project, and that the sooner this resolution is passed through JPACT, the sooner Metro can start working with stakeholders in a more official capacity.

Councilor Liberty said he is fine with the choice of the Barbur corridor as a priority, but reiterated that we need to be careful about the precedent that is set regarding corridor selection, and that the staff report therefore needs more clarity in terms of how corridor choice is justified. Councilor Park asked how political conflicts among local jurisdictions can be somehow accounted for, since conflict reduces the political force of those jurisdictions to back a particular corridor.

Councilor Burkholder mentioned his appreciation of the arrow chart handout since it illustrates the logic to Metro's involvement in different transit projects. He appreciates the work the Councilor Collette and staff have done to lay the foundation for decision- making.

Mr. Jordan wondered whether more work needs to be done to make the Barbur-corridor resolution the precedent-setting documents they will be. Councilor Liberty hoped that we can be able to present a regional HCT approach on the Washington, D.C. trip.

Mr. Roberts described the other resolution being presented to the Council. Councilors continued to discuss the details of the Barbur corridor plan and to clarify the graphs that were handed out.

Councilor Harrington asked what Council recommendation to the two JPACT representatives is on these resolutions, with Councilors responding they should move ahead with them.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION

Councilor Burkholder stated his thoughts on the CET Grants program, and wants Council to discuss its criteria for funding projects. Councilors discussed the grant program, including an approach to changing criteria for funding, what the grants were intended for in the first place, the possibility of including more stipulations about housing choice in the criteria, and the timing of changing the criteria.

Councilor Park, who serves as a liaison to the Auditor's committee, asked about how the new Auditor's requirements affect the budget. Mr. Jordan said these requirements will be included in the new base budget.

Councilor Liberty discussed the need for the Internal Bond Oversight Committee to determine a budget, and to determine how we will work with the City and landowners on the projects at the zoo. Mr. Jordan mentioned that Metro needs a high-level liaison from the City of Portland to help the process go smoothly.

Councilor Park described his and Councilor Liberty's visit to the opening of Nadaka Park in Gresham.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Harrington adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.

Prepared by,



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
January 12, 2010

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	1/12/10	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, January 14, 2010	011210cw-1
2	Agenda	1/12/10	Agenda: Metro Council Work Session on FY 2010-11 Budget	011210cw-2
3	Draft Resolution	1/12/10	For the Purpose of Endorsing the Southwest High Capacity Transit (HCT) Corridor	011210cw-3
4	Draft Resolution	1/12/10	For the Purpose of Updating the Work Program For Corridor Refinement Planning	011210cw-4
5	Handout	1/11/10	Exhibit-C- Refinement Plan Sequencing	011210cw-5
6	Handout	6/23/09	Going Places Map	011210cw-6
7	Handout	1/12/10	CET Planning Grants Evaluation Criteria	011210cw-7