

## **MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010  
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President David Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

### **1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, March 25, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Margo Norton, of Finance and Administrative Services discussed dividends released by the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) and Metro's "experience modification rate" with regard to insurance claims. Ms. Norton also reminded the Council that there will be a budget presentation next week and that Councilors may ask for briefings on the budget if they have questions. Councilors discussed solid waste rate-making, particularly with regard to the transparency and policies of the rate-making process.

### **2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM**

Councilor Liberty initiated a conversation on the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, whose purpose is to provide grants of up to \$5 million to assist regions in developing a "regional plan for sustainable development". Andy Shaw of the Strategy Center explained that the grants target work in three categories: 1) to develop a regional plan for sustainable development, 2) to develop detailed plans for implementation of an already-developed regional plan, 3) to implement catalytic projects in regions that have a plan in place.

Mr. Shaw said that Metro staff has begun to meet with local partners to discuss the grant program; some ideas that have arisen include enhancing Metro's community investment strategy through work on a regional housing strategy, ECO-districts, and school district regional planning. Mr. Shaw posed the following questions for the Council: whether to apply for the grant, whether to do so in collaboration with regional partners, and what types of proposals to submit.

Councilor Park asked about the role of school districts in this grant process, and noted that the school element is missing in Metro's regional plans.

Councilor Harrington asked whether applying for this grant would require Metro staff to postpone other projects or redirect resources. She noted that HUD's vision of a regional plan is highly similar to Metro's 2040 concept and suggested that Metro could use this grant opportunity to seek to "complete" its own 2040 regional plan to make it closer to HUD's vision. She also said that this should be a collaborative effort with regional partners.

Council President Bragdon said that Metro should apply for a grant in category 2 or 3 and do so in concert with regional partners, in part to strengthen the application and potential for local

funding match. He wondered whether \$5 million was enough to do any actual projects or whether the grant might fund more plans that could catalyze later projects. Mr. Shaw indicated that another round of funding was upcoming, which could help implement projects developed during this first grant round.

Councilor Collette was also supportive of applying for a grant in category 2 or 3, and she had a number of ideas that she saw as catalytic projects for sustainable development. She also asked about the timeframe for expenditure of the funds.

Councilor Liberty said he supports applying for this grant and noted that there are still gaps to be filled in our regional planning, such as housing policy and equity issues, and tools that could be developed using grant funding. He suggested that funding could be used to develop projects that help Metro pursue its six desired outcomes for the region. He also said that outreach to public and private partners is important to get community acceptance of Metro's investment strategies and that grant applications should not focus solely on Metro's needs.

Councilor Burkholder discussed using grant funding for on-the-ground projects such as TOD projects, versus looking to more planning-oriented uses such as working on the regional investment strategy or furthering the Climate Prosperity strategy. Councilors Liberty and Collette suggested the money could be used to develop projects that are more catalytic and innovative than TOD. Councilor Harrington reminded the Council that some standard projects may be catalytic to many of the 25 in Metro's jurisdiction, if not necessarily innovative.

Councilor Park said that focusing on category 2 type grant applications could give Metro an opportunity to leverage MGP work and CET funds, as well as include an education component in regional planning.

Councilor Burkholder mentioned potential benefits of partnering with the State on this application. Councilor Liberty discussed leveraging private sector engagement to help achieve our objectives and possibly carry out projects using a next round of grant funding.

### **3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION**

Councilor Collette discussed her trip to Washington, D.C. with JPACT. She also mentioned that the Center for Neighborhood Technology is introducing a new housing and transportation model, and that there will be open houses for an electric vehicle from eTec.

Councilor Liberty discussed the Green Familiarization dinner he attended, as well as the first meeting of the CET grant screening committee last week. He also asked Councilors whether Metro should play a role in finding a replacement for Fred Hansen at Trimet, which Councilors generally support since Trimet has an important role on JPACT and MPAC.

Councilors also discussed Trimet and agreed that Trimet should have more substantive engagement with Metro and provide more in-depth analysis of their actions. Councilor Liberty suggested having a work session on these issues.

Councilor Harrington said she met with the Oregon Business Development Commission to explain the reserves process. She also asked whether the Council would be briefed on the City Club's transportation report.

Councilor Park thanked everyone for their work on the Nature in Neighborhoods program. He also said that he has been briefing his district on the East Metro Connections plan and that the community is receptive and glad to see how the elements of Metro's planning efforts are coming together.

Councilor Burkholder discussed work on the Climate Prosperity strategy.

Adjourned at 3:25

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheena VanLeuven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheena" and last name "VanLeuven" clearly distinguishable.

Sheena VanLeuven  
Council Policy Associate

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF**  
**March 23, 2010**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2	Attachment	02/10/10	Excerpt from: Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program Advance Notice and Request for Comment	032310cw-1
2	Attachment	03/12/10	To: Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities From: Metro Re: Docket No. FR-5396-N-01	032310cw-2