

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 2010
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: None

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

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, June 8, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Robert Liberty made some suggestions regarding the Construction Excise Tax. Councilor Liberty stated that the litigation is ongoing and if favorable no discussion would be needed. However, if it is not there will need to be discussion regarding the grants. Councilor Liberty suggested each Councilor pick a grant outside of their districts and become familiar with the grant. Council President David Bragdon agreed.

2. FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT REVIEW & DISCUSSION

Margo Norton, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, presented the final steps necessary in order to take action on the budget for the Thursday Metro Council Meeting. These steps included looking at the contracts list, investment policies, financial policies, and proposed amendments. Specifically in discussing financial policies, Ms. Norton explained Metro is required to implement Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement number 54. In general, Metro's current practice complies with GASB 54, now it must make a more formal statement to that effect. Don Cox, Accounting Manager, helped to explain what decisions would need to be made in order to fully comply with GASB 54. These decisions included stating the Chief Operating Officer's responsibilities for delegating types of bonds consisting of "assigned" and "unassigned", the Metro Council designates bonds for the type "commitments". Another decision for the Metro Council concerned in what order Metro can spend the categorized money, the recommendation being the most restricted items first. The last decision was the definition for "stabilization arrangement". Mr. Cox stated that Metro's policy concerning the definition was currently in line with GASB 54 and recommended that this be formally adopted as well. Throughout the discussion Mr. Cox and Ms. Norton fielded questions from the Council pertaining to the budget.

3. BREAK

4. BUS SYSTEMS OPERATIONS: REVIEW

Councilor Liberty introduced the members of TriMet for the bus systems operations presentation. These included Carolyn Young, TriMet's Executive Director of Communications, Ken Zatarain, TriMet's Director of Service Planning, and Steve Kautz, TriMet's Service Program Manager. The members of TriMet presented a PowerPoint presentation covering a general background of ridership and service routes for the TriMet transit system, including the importance of the Frequent Service lines. The main goal of the presentation and discussion was to cover the financial challenges TriMet faces. Ms. Young described TriMet's budget and fiscal situation while fielding questions from the Councilors. Ms. Young explained how the decisions for allocating resources to different lines and infrastructure are made which include ridership, access, land development, and transit equity.

Discussion after the presentation consisted of recognizing Metro and TriMet's role to work together with growth and transit and questioning the next steps for TriMet.


5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Harrington brought attention to a notice of an event that had not been previously acknowledged. The event was a talk to be given by Dan Burden concerning enhancing walkability in the Portland metropolitan area.

Councilor Collette received a letter from Jason Tell on behalf of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) as a follow up from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) presentation given by Metro to the commission last month. This letter set out the Commission's concerns and suggestions for the targets set out in the RTP. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) also added concerns regarding the timing of adoption of Title 6. Councilor Collette responded with a letter. Kim Ellis, Senior Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the response letter. This letter described how the RTP is addressing the issues brought up in Mr. Tell's letter as well as including some suggestions for action the ODOT and the OTC could consider. Councilor Collette asked for guidance from the Council. The Council discussed and supported the response letter.

Adjourned at 4:36 pm

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Brown".

Kim Brown
Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
June 8, 2010

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	06/08/10	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, June 10, 2010	060810cw-1
2	Handout	04/29/10	Approved Budget: GASB 54 – Fund Balance Designation	060810cw-2
3	Presentation	06/10	Powerpoint: TriMet Bus System Plan	060810cw-3
4	Handout	06/08/10	TriMet Transit Investment Plan FY2010	060810cw-4
5	Handout	06/08/10	Flyer: Dan Burden Enhancing Walkability in the Portland Metropolitan Area	060810cw-5
6	Handout	06/02/10	To: Councilor Collette From: Jason Tell, Oregon Transportation Commission Re: RTP Presentation	060810cw-6
7	Handout	06/08/10	To: Jason Tell From: Councilor Collette Re: Response to Letter Regarding RTP Presentation	060810cw-7