

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Carlotta Collette (Acting Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Carl Hosticka, Rex Burkholder, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Rod Park (excused)

Acting Council President Carlotta Collette convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

The Council discussed attendance issues at upcoming Council meetings.

Margo Norton, Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, discussed changes to PERS rates and how the changes will impact the Agency.

2. CONTEXT FOR TODAY'S WORK SESSION

COO Michael Jordan gave background on Metro's approach to addressing climate change. He discussed the importance of having both technical tools as well as good communication tools that frame the problem for citizens and stakeholders.

3. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ANALYSIS TOOLKIT

Mike Hoglund, Research Center Director, introduced the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Toolkit, which is intended to provide guidance on the tools available to Metro staff and the Council in addressing climate change. He discussed areas in which the toolkit could be useful both to Metro internally and in sharing with local governments.

Councilors gave suggestions on improving the toolkit including addressing life cycle analysis of roads and other projects, ensuring version control for each new edition of the toolkit, and how best to partner with local jurisdictions in sharing the toolkit.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE PREPARATION FRAMEWORK

Heidi Rahn, senior planner, gave background on the work that has been done by Metro in conjunction with other groups on climate preparedness, which refers to the proactive steps taken to build resiliency and resistance to the climate change-induced stresses that can be reasonably expected to occur during this century. She noted that Metro staff participated in the advisory committee to develop a proposed action plan for climate preparedness for the region, which resulted in the draft *Building Climate Resilience in the Lower Willamette Subbasin of Western Oregon: Initial Summary of Findings: Projected Impacts and Recommendations* report.

Jonathan Soll, Science and Stewardship manager, discussed the expected climate change impacts on natural systems, including changes in rain and snowfall patterns as well as changes to plant and animal habitat and biodiversity impacts. He outlined the recommendations from the advisory committee

including strengthening the Intertwine, the system of trails and open spaces in the region, and creating a conservation framework for the region. Councilors discussed topics including the “soft” (i.e. focusing on leveraging natural systems) versus “hard” (i.e. applying technological solutions) approach to dealing with climate change impacts, co-benefits arising from the “soft” approach, what kind of financial effort needs to be put into this area, and the importance of partnering with rural areas with regard to conservation.

John Williams, Deputy Director of Planning and Transportation, discussed the climate change impacts to human and built systems, including impacts to infrastructure, risks to social services, food and water scarcity, and increased risk among already vulnerable populations. He noted that it is critical to integrate climate change planning into all of the work Metro does and to take a systems view approach to the problem. Councilors discussed topics including leadership and Metro’s role in climate preparedness, how to work with regional partners on this problem, and impacts to regional agriculture and trade.

5. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS PROJECT

Kim Ellis, principal transportation planner, discussed the Climate Smart Communities scenarios work, which is in response to both State requirements for climate change as well as the vision set forth in the 2040 growth concept. She outlined the work program for the coming year which includes analyzing research, developing tools, and sharing findings and discovering opportunities to collaborate with local governments. The Council discussed topics including whether this work will be part of the next urban growth management decision, how this work might affect highway transportation plans and projects, what collaboration already exists between Metro and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in this realm, and the challenge of keeping the focus on the on-the-ground work rather than on disputes over the underlying data and modeling assumptions.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION

Acting Council President Collette noted that the Department of Land Conservation and Development staff recommends approval of all of Metro’s Urban and Rural Reserves decisions to the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Councilor Liberty discussed the meeting of the Greater Portland-Vancouver Indicators team.

The Council discussed the upcoming Council retreat on October 14.

Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Prepared by



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	09/28/2010	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, October 1, 2010	092810cw-1
1	Handout	02/01/2010	Total Estimate PERS Rate	092810cw-2
2	Handout	09/2010	Climate Smart Communities 2010-11 Activities	092810cw-3
4	Presentation	09/28/2010	PPT: Climate Smart Communities Preparedness	092810cw-4
5	Presentation	09/28/2010	PPT: Climate Smart Communities Scenarios	092810cw-5