



## METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Summary

Sept. 8, 2011

Metro Council Chambers

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Barbara Roberts, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, and Shirley Craddick

Councilors Excused: Councilors Carl Hosticka and Kathryn Harrington

Council President Tom Hughes convened the regular Council meeting at 2 p.m.

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

### 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ray Phelps, Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Phelps encouraged the Council to include Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) analysis area 4H – 316-acres in the City of Wilsonville – into the UGB for residential needs. He emphasized the need for more housing – in particular affordable housing – to create a better balance between jobs and housing. He also highlighted other benefits should the area be included, such as reduced commuter traffic congestion. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)

### 3. NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Jim Desmond of Metro announced that Metro staffer Kathleen Brennan-Hunter received the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association's *Distinguished Public Service* award for 2011.

Mr. Desmond welcomed and introduced Ms. Linda Craig, chair of the Natural Areas Program Oversight Committee. Ms. Craig provided a brief presentation of the committee's annual report for January 2010 to June 2011. She overviewed the committee membership, program assessment – including dashboard reports and qualitative performance measures, and conclusions and recommendations for site stabilization and program administrative costs. Ms. Craig thanked Councilor Kathryn Harrington for serving as council liaison to the committee and staff for their support.

Council discussion included the timing of site stabilization (e.g. seasonal impacts) and available funding, and the recent launch of Metro's 'It's Our Nature' campaign. Council thanked the committee for their service.

### 4. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2011

Motion:	Councilor Carlotta Collette moved to adopt the August 11, 2011 Council minutes.
Second:	Councilor Barbara Roberts seconded the motion.

Vote:

Council President Hughes and Councilors Collette, Roberts, Craddick, and Burkholder voted in support of the motion. The vote was 5 ayes, the motion passed.

**5. RESOLUTIONS**

**5.1 Resolution No. 11-4289, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Martha Bennett as Metro Chief Operating Officer.**

Council President Tom Hughes passed the gavel to Councilor Collette to chair the meeting while he carried Res. No. 11-4289 and Res. No. 11-4288.

Motion:	Council President Hughes moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-4289.
Second:	Councilor Rex Burkholder seconded the motion.

Council President Hughes introduced Resolution No. 11-4289 which if approved would confirm Ms. Martha Bennett as Metro’s new Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Bennett was selected after a lengthy search process that involved the Council, Metro’s senior leadership team and staff, and numerous external stakeholders including Opt-in participants. She embodies many of the important qualities highlighted by councilors and stakeholders. Ms. Bennett is a:

- Skilled communicator;
- Collaborative manager and relationship builder;
- Knowledgeable manager of public finances; and
- Strong and effective leader with experience working collaboratively on complex issues.

President Hughes thanked Mr. Dan Cooper and Ms. Alison Kean Campbell for serving as acting Metro COO and Metro Attorney while the agency conducted the recruitment.

Council discussed the open recruitment process, and stakeholder and public engagement opportunities. Councilors spoke to Ms. Bennett’s qualifications and supported the Council President’s nomination.

Vote:

Council President Hughes and Councilors Collette, Roberts, Craddick, and Burkholder voted in support of the motion. The vote was 5 ayes, the motion passed.

**5.2 Resolution No. 11-4288, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Council President to Sign the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Columbia River Crossing Project.**

Motion:	Council President Hughes moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-4288.
Second:	Councilor Burkholder seconded the motion.

Council President Hughes introduced Resolution No. 11-4288. At the August 11 Council meeting, the Council approved the amendment of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Land Use Final Order (LUFO), but deferred the decision to authorize the Council President to sign the CRC’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) pending a number of issues. CRC and ODOT have continued to address Council’s questions regarding mitigation indentified in the FEIS document and

commitments for work activities moving forward. A revised Attachment A to the resolution was distributed that reflected Council's comments and requests from their Sept. 6 council work session. (Handout included as part of the meeting record.) Council President Hughes emphasized that the project must be built citing deteriorating infrastructure and impacts to freight travel (e.g. port and rail activities) as reasoning.

Mr. Kris Strickler of ODOT briefly overviewed modifications and/or amendments to Attachment A as a result of Council and staff's discussion at the Sept. 6 work session:

- *Page 4:* New language that (1) requires construction equipment and methodology utilize best practices throughout the life of the project as they become available in order to minimize environmental impacts during construction; and (2) provides a more clear description of the short versus long-term air quality impacts.
- *Page 7:* New language that highlights that both approaches to a community enhancement fund have been successfully implemented in the region and will help inform the project. In addition, the document was reorganized and the community enhancement fund scope of work is now embedded in the main document.
- *Page 9:* New language that addresses cross-jurisdictional laws, governance and funding.

Councilor Collette opened a public hearing on Res. No. 11-4288:

- Ron Swaren, 1542 SE Umatilla St., Portland: Mr. Swaren was opposed to the resolution. He stated that the DOT's FY 2012 budget highlights' list the CRC project competing for funding against three other projects and that it is unlikely the CRC will be funded. He stated that both the Oregon and Washington state legislatures have indicated that there will be no funding available for the CRC for at least 3 years.
- Debbie Petersen, SE 10<sup>th</sup>, Vancouver, WA: Ms. Petersen distributed and read from a copy of former Metro Councilor Robert Liberty's testimony to the CRC Independent Review Plan on July 7, 2010. Ms. Petersen was opposed to the resolution and recommended the Council read the complete testimony prior to taking action on the resolution. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Tom Dana, 1501 N Hayden Island Drive, #110: Mr. Dana was in favor of a new bridge, but noted concern with the displacement of the local Safeway, noise impacts, and potential for decreased business on the island. He encouraged CRC and ODOT staff to apply more pressure to Safeway and encourage the store to relocate on the island. He emphasized the need for a community enhancement fund.
- Gerald Fox, 1607 SW Greenwood Rd., Portland: Mr. Fox was opposed to the resolution stating that the project has provided misinformation. He was concerned with the project's claims of reduced traffic congestion and increased road capacity. He was also concerned with the proposed bike facilities and tolling. He encouraged the Council to consider alternative transportation options, with a local street bridge, and improvements to the existing railroad bridge. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Frank Martin, 235 SE 165<sup>th</sup>, Apt. 139, Portland: Mr. Martin believe the goal of the CRC project had shifted away from improving traffic flow to increasing alternative transportation options. He was concern with the costs to consumers – specifically that

the tolling rates placed on trucking companies would result in higher prices for consumers.

- Herman Kachold, Hayden Island Livability Project: Mr. Kachold asked the Council questions regarding the deadline the FEIS submittal, the FEIS public comment period, and the City of Portland's Rose Quarter Plan.

Mr. Strickler indicated that, pending Council's approval of the resolution, the FEIS would be released on Sept. 23 and would commence and a federal 30-day public comment period which includes two public drop-in sessions on Oct. 12 and 13. He overviewed the proposed timeline and anticipated federal decisions. Staff anticipated construction would begin at the end of 2013.

- Kathleen Worman, 3805 NE 63<sup>rd</sup>, Portland: Ms. Worman was opposed to the resolution and stated that the project would not solve congestion. She encouraged the Council to reconsider a Westside bypass.
- Chris Girard, Plaid Pantries, Inc.: Mr. Girard was opposed to the resolution. He stated that while CRC staff has said that they embrace the IRP's report, the project has continued to move forward with the original plan. Mr. Girard emphasized project unknowns including the project's finance plan. He believed that the resolution as proposed put the CRC in charge of Metro's goals and policies. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Joseph Cortright, Impresa Inc.: Mr. Cortright was opposed to the resolution. He stated that (1) the impacts of the project are uncertain; (2) the CRC traffic model projections are inaccurate; and (3) the effect that approval of CRC will have on funding for other transportation projects in the region is unknown. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Sharon Nasset, Third Bridge Now: Ms. Nasset was opposed to the resolution stating that Oregon and Washington state legislatures have yet convened to a project oversight committee and are not anticipated to until late September – specifically four days after the anticipated submittal of the FEIS.
- Art Lewellan: 1020 NW 9<sup>th</sup>, Apt. #604, Portland: Mr. Lewellan was opposed to the resolution. He believe the Hayden Island interchange as currently proposed was unsafe and recommended Council reconsider Concept #1 regarding the Island's interchange and off-island access. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Ronald Buel, 2817 NE 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland: Mr. Buel was opposed to the resolution. He stated that the persons, who worked in 1972 to 1973 to help create Metro, would not recognize what the Metro Council has done in the last 3 months regarding the CRC. He believed Metro used a 15-year old exemption to circumvent standing land use laws and disregarded the IRP's comments on the traffic models and carbon dioxide emissions. He encouraged the Council not to move the FEIS forward; he cited impacts to air quality and traffic congestion as reasoning.

Seeing no additional citizen's who wished to comment, Councilor Collette closed the public hearing.

Council questions addressed the project's traffic model forecasts and projected traffic congestion relief, and the City of Portland's Rose Quarter Plan. While council thanked CRC staff for their work over the past month, some councilors continued to express concerns about the project's finance plan and phasing, and wanted to ensure Hayden Island residents would be protected. Additional discussion included benefits of light rail, the political complexity of the project, and the importance of a building a bridge the region can celebrate and support.

Vote:

Council President Hughes and Councilors Collette, Roberts, Craddick, and Burkholder voted in support of the motion. The vote was 5 ayes, the motion passed.
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Councilor Collette passed the gavel back to Council President Hughes to preside of the remainder of the meeting.

**6. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Cooper announced that Metro staff was awarded the Federal Transit Administration' award for *Outstanding Achievement for Excellence in Environmental Document Preparation* for the Portland to Milwaukie light rail project. Council congratulated staff.

Additional updates included a recent partnership with Burgerville and Walk There! program that provides coloring kits with different Walk There! themes to children.

**7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION**

Council communications included an update on the recent Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) meeting.

**8. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 3:55 p.m. The Metro Council will reconvene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. at Metro Council Chambers.

Prepared by,



Kelsey Newell,  
Regional Engagement Coordinator

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 8, 2011**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2.0	Testimony	9/8/11	Written testimony submitted by Ray Phelps	90811c-01
3.0	Report	9/2011	Taking Measure: A report to the community from the Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight	90811c-02
5.1	Exhibit	N/A	Exhibit A to Resolution No. 11-4289	90811c-03
5.2	Memo/Attachment	9/8/11	Letter to President Hughes from CRC staff regarding FEIS; Attachment 1 to Resolution No. 11-4288	90811c-04
5.2	Testimony	9/8/11	Written testimony submitted by Debbie Petersen – Testimony was originally distributed to CRC IRP by Robert Liberty	90811c-05
5.2	Testimony	8/11/11	Written testimony submitted by Gerald Fox	90811c-06
5.2	Testimony	9/7/11	Written testimony submitted by Chris Girard	90811c-07
5.2	Testimony	9/8/11	Written testimony submitted by Joe Cortright	90811c-08
5.2	Testimony	9/8/11	Written testimony submitted by Art Lewellan	90811c-09
5.2	Testimony	9/7/11	Written testimony submitted by Sharon Nasset	90811c-10