



METRO COUNCIL RETREAT

Meeting Summary

Dec. 13, 2011

Portland Expo Center, D120

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff/Guests Present: Martha Bennett, Dan Cooper, Alison Kean Campbell, Andy Shaw, Ina Zucker, Scott Robinson, Margo Norton, Kelsey Newell, Annierose Vonburg, Nikolai Ursin, Kathryn Sofich, Sheena VanLeuven, Colin Deverell, Elissa Gertler, Mike Hogle, and John Williams

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro convened the retreat at 2:05 p.m.

Councilor Carlotta Collette asked councilors to endorse a letter expressing support for the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition's request to Congress for a National Heritage Area designation for the Willamette Falls and surrounding area. Council supported the letter and recommended Council President Hughes sign on behalf of the full council. Additional updates included information on the bid day for the former Blue Heron site. Council requested an executive session on this issue.

1. REVIEW PREVIOUS RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Bennett provided a brief summary of the Nov. 30 council retreat including council's identified short and long-term priorities:

Short-term Priorities:

- Headquarters Hotel
- Willamette Falls
- Community Investment Initiative
- Visitor Venues
- Parks Funding Measure & Portfolio Strategy
- Community and Citizen Outreach Strategy for Engagement

Long-term Priorities:

- Greater Portland Pulse
- SW Roadmap
- Climate Preparedness
- Intertwine Alliance
- Metro's Role in Regional Water Issues

Council discussion included the Climate Preparedness limited duration position and completion of the project work program, and parks acquisition, maintenance and operation.

2. REVIEW DESIRED OUTCOMES

Ms. Bennett provided a brief overview of the Dec. 13 discussion topics.

3. FRAME PLANNING PROGRAM CHOICES

Mr. John Williams of Metro summarized the Planning and Development Department's work program into three main categories:

- **Core Programs**: Includes work directly related to Metro's role as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), ongoing state requirements, and Metro's charter, Framework Plan and Functional Plan. Examples include Regional Transportation Plan updates or concept planning for new urban areas and urban reserves.
- **Regional Collaborative Initiatives**: Includes major multi-jurisdictional projects to advance the regional vision and local implementation. Examples include SW Corridor Plan and Lake Oswego to Portland Transit project.
- **Implementation Tools**: Includes developing and sharing tools and innovative solutions that support local implementation of the 2040 Growth Concept and create conditions that stimulate development. Examples include station area planning, and large lot industrial sites inventory and action plan.

Mr. Williams provided a brief overview of the budget for each of the 3 program areas, including information on program funding sources: general fund versus federal and state discretionary funds versus competitive federal/state grants and dedicated monies.

Council discussion included Transit Oriented Development (TOD) funding sources, relationship-building with local jurisdictions, small cities' capacity for concept planning, evaluating the return on investment for Metro's collaborative initiatives, and Metro staff resources utilized for non-Metro-led projects such as the Aloha-Reedville project.

4. COUNCILOR Q&A AND TAKEAWAYS

Ms. Bennett asked councilors to highlight a few takeaways from Mr. Williams' presentation. Responses included:

- Funding sources are shrinking and there is not sufficient money to continue at Metro's current level of service for each of the programs.
- Metro provides lots of valuable services to local jurisdictions and the public.
- Planning and Development Department staff assignments flex between projects.
- There is a need to be more conservative with, and more efficient in, allocating Metro's funding resources.
- It is appropriate to allocate general fund resources to Metro's core Planning and Development Department responsibilities.
- Some members were concerned with local jurisdictions' capacity to take on additional responsibilities and that reducing Metro-led activities may create a competitive environment that leaves smaller jurisdictions behind.

5. BREAK

The Council did not recess for a break.

6. IDENTIFYING COUNCILOR WORK PRIORITIES

Ms. Bennett emphasized that as funding sources shrink and Metro's portfolio continues to grow, the Council will need to choose the level of service Metro should provide for each of the Planning and Development Department's programs.

She led councilors in an exercise to rate, using a low-medium-high scale, a series of program areas in each of the department's core programs, regional collaborative initiatives, and implementation tools. Council was asked to select 2 program areas to increase Metro's level of service, 6 to maintain the agency's current level of service, and 8 areas to reduce service. Medium level represented Metro's current level of service. (Full list of the program areas has been included as part of the meeting record.)

Council was in general support for reducing levels of service in the Planning and Development Department's core programs, maintaining current service levels on regional collaborative initiatives, and increasing efforts in implementation activities at the local jurisdictional level.

Additionally general discussion included:

- Metro and local jurisdictions' responsibilities on concept planning in or outside the existing urban growth boundary.
- Metro's annual report on compliance and the lack of consequences should jurisdictions be found out of compliance.
- The general regional support for the Transportation System Management and Operation program.
- The success of the Development Opportunity Fund and its ability to leverage additional local resources and funding.
- The importance of outreach and collaboration with local jurisdictions on the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios project.
- The continued improvements with the Regional Flexible Fund Allocation process and general discussion on the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and air quality conformity analysis work.
- Additional program areas not included in staff's handout including brownfields and parcellization, East Multnomah County Connections project, and assisting local jurisdictions with their planning efforts to implement 2040.
- Other potential revenue sources.

SUMMARY, Q&A, & NEXT STEPS

Due to limited time, this agenda item was postponed until a later date.

7. **ADJOURN**

Seeing no further discussion, Ms. Bennett adjourned the retreat at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DEC. 13, 2011

Agenda Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
3.	Handouts	N/A	Metro Planning & Development Department Programs, Budget Overview, & Service Level Scenarios	121311c-01