



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
Feb. 9, 2012
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None.

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 1:05pm.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE /CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro provided an update on staff's communication with the City of Troutdale regarding Title 13 compliance. Unless an agreement is made, a public hearing will be scheduled during the third or fourth week of April. Ms. Bennett also mentioned that several media outlets have contacted her about the compliance issue.

2. REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Lake McTighe of Metro presented updates on the regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP), and overviewed the project's current status, process and timeline. Ms. McTighe identified good timing, a focus on supporting high capacity transit for walkers and bikers, and partnerships as three key themes. Public use and demand for active transportation infrastructure continues to increase, which indicates the need for a regional strategy, Ms. McTighe noted. Ms. McTighe cited regional surveys that show lack of infrastructure and safety continue to concerns residents when considering active transportation options like students walking or riding bikes to school. Ms. McTighe emphasized the importance of jurisdictional partnerships in order to determine local priorities and to implement coordinated strategies.

Ultimately, Ms. McTighe asked councilors for direction on developing the main messages of the ATP. Synergy with other, relative Metro projects such as corridor planning, the Community Investment Strategy (CIS) and Climate Smart Communities Scenarios will play an important role as well. Ms. McTighe also cited the project's Stakeholder's Advisory Committee, Executive Council for Active Transportation and list of public and private stakeholders as instrumental figures in developing the ATP and reaching out to the community.

Councilor Discussion:

During an exercise introduced by Ms. McTighe, councilors indicated that the ATP would be challenged if its language is not inclusive and deepens the bikes vs. cars divide. Among many success factors, councilors claimed that success is achievable if new funding sources can be identified, if more elected officials can be brought on as supporters and if infrastructure focuses on

and improves safety. Councilors noted that funding sources that have supported bike and pedestrian projects in the past, such as Regional Flexible Funds (RFF), are very vulnerable.

There was discussion about how to draw in a wider range of the business community, particularly given the region's identity and brand as a bike-friendly and transit-oriented place. Ms. McTighe noted economic development as an important element in the ATP vision and implementation. Councilors discussed strategies on how to engage individuals and communities that could oppose active transportation infrastructure. Councilors expressed the view that advisory committees and stakeholders must understand their role as liaisons and communicators, engaging people and delivering messages to the community and back to policy makers.

3. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES

Councilor Harrington brought up the TriMet plan, as well as a stream of open houses and public hearings that will be conducted before a concrete proposal is adopted. Councilor Carl Hosticka noted that the SW Corridor Steering Committee recently hosted an open house and is moving forward with public engagement strategies.

Councilor Burkholder presented is potential, future liaison report in the form of a project proposal regarding the region's air toxics monitoring and regulating. A recent DEQ presentation to JPACT outlined numerous air toxics chemicals related mostly to transportation and industry that are harmful to humans, and are not, as of yet, regulated by DEQ. Councilor Burkholder proposed that Metro could investigate ways to deal with the air toxics issue through a collaborative problem solving methodology.

Councilor Discussion:

Regarding the air toxics council project proposal, councilors questioned what the message for people today would be in the context of the 5-year plan. There was a discussion about not taking for granted clean air and existing environmental quality projects, while simultaneously addressing remaining issues the region faces given only three toxic chemicals are currently regulated.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Harrington reported on two memos from Solid Waste staff on enhancing dry waste recovery and the potential of mattress recycling.

ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 2:16pm.



Josh Springer
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF Feb. 9, 2012

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	PPT	2/9/12	Regional Active Transportation Plan – Project Overview	20912cw-01
2.0	Report	N/A	Regional ATP – Successful if... handout	20912cw-02
2.0	Report	N/A	Opt In survey summary on active transportation	20912cw-03
2.0	Report	Nov. 2008	The case for an integrated mobility strategy	20912cw-04
2.0	Report	N/A	Trails and Active Transportation Selected Indicators of Success	20912cw-05
2.0	Report	N/A	The Economic Value of Active Transportation	20912cw-06
3.0	Memo	1/17/12	Air Toxic Council Project Proposal	20912cw-07
3.0	Factsheet	2/9/12	Portland Air Toxics 2017 Modeling Study	20912cw-08