



**METRO COUNCIL RETREAT**  
Meeting Summary  
Feb. 21, 2012  
Oregon Convention Center, Room VIP B

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Burkholder

Staff/Guests Present: Martha Bennett, Scott Robinson, Alison Kean Campbell, Andy Shaw, Margo Norton, Ina Zucker, Annierose Vonburg, Kelsey Newell, Robin McArthur and Jim Middaugh

Council President Hughes convened the retreat at 2:08 p.m.

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro stated that the purpose of the Feb. 21 retreat was to:

1. Confirm staff work completed to date in response to Council direction provided at previous retreats;
2. Council and staff have a mutual understanding of the FY 2012-13 budget and the Chief Operating Officer's budget prioritization criteria; and
3. Receive an update on the Planning and Development Department.

**1. REVIEW AND CONFIRM COUNCIL WORK PLAN PRIORITIES**

The Metro Council identified their short and long-term work plan priorities at the Nov. 30, 2011 retreat. Ms. Bennett stated that in addition to these identified priorities, individual councilors, or the council as a whole, have expressed interest in supporting additional initiatives such as the Nature in Neighborhoods (NIN) program and the Greater Portland Metro Export Initiative (MEI). (Complete list of the Nov. 30 council initiatives included as part of the meeting packet.)

Councilors reconfirmed their support for the MEI project. Ms. Bennett stated that staff is currently researching potential 1, 2, and 3-year funding sources for the project. Councilors also expressed general support for the NIN program, but agreed that further discussion on potential funding sources was needed. The initial discussion identified a number of potential funding sources for NIN. Other potential councilor-driven projects highlighted included mattress recycling, banning plastic bag use in the region, and air toxics solutions work.

**2. COO CRITERIA FOR BUDGET PRIORITIZATION**

Ms. Bennett stated that Metro is facing a \$3 million deficit for FY 2012-13. She emphasized that while the second quarter budget report shows the agency is generally on track for the current fiscal year, this translates to low revenues for FY 2012-13. She stated Metro's discretionary funds – the most flexible of Metro's revenues (e.g. excise tax and property taxes) – are flat. Additionally, she noted that federal funds for transportation planning and infrastructure are uncertain and anticipated to decline. Consequently, she will need to evaluate the agency's footprint; this will

include terminating limited duration positions set to expire, and analyzing implications to the larger agency workforce.

Given this forecast, Ms. Bennett outlined, and asked Council for their support on, prioritization criteria she and department directors will use to develop the draft FY 2012-13 budget for Council consideration. The prioritization criteria for projects and programs for FY 2012-13 are:

- Contribution to the region's six desired outcomes;
- Alignment with the Metro Compass;
- Use of one-time resources for one-time hires;
- Programs with sustainable funding resources; and
- Consideration to catastrophic or essential capital needs.

Council supported the five criteria.

Ms. Bennett highlighted five potential projects under the *Consideration to catastrophic or essential capital needs* criteria that required Council attention and discussion:

- Oxbow Park
- Glendoveer Golf Course
- Metro Regional Center LEED certification
- Expo Center, Hall A
- Pioneer cemeteries cremation facility and mausoleum
- Obsolete Metro technology for essential functions

While the Council did not rank or prioritize the above projects, members did provide general direction and feedback to staff:

- General agreement that seeking LEED certifications for the MRC should be a low priority for FY 2012-13. Members, however, did support continuing operations that ensure the building is running efficiently.
- General support to begin Oxbow Park remediation. Members supported temporary actions to address the recent erosion damage at the park, but agreed a long-term master plan for Oxbow was needed.
- General support to evaluate the possibility of providing increased services at Metro's pioneer cemeteries such as a cremation facility and mausoleum space. Members emphasized that the income generated from such services could be used to fund cemetery maintenance.
- General support to address a current structural issue at Expo Center Hall A related to a damaged pillar. Members agreed to have a larger discussion, at a later date, on Halls A, B, and C as part of the Center's master plan.
- General support to address issues with Metro's web site server.

- General discussion of the state of Glendoveer Golf Course – specifically the water tower. Staff indicated that some investment in the course would be required prior to soliciting a Request for Proposals for a new operator. Members also discuss the public's perception of Glendoveer and expectations of Metro, and the potential of other onsite facilities to generate future funding (e.g. tennis courts).

Overall discussion included the need to adequately scope each of these potential projects, different types of one-time resources (e.g. monetary versus political capital), and opportunities these projects create to better connect with local communities and populations.

### **3. PLANNING DEPARTMENT DIRECTION AND FOCUS FOR 2012-13**

Ms. Robin McArthur of Metro provided an update on the Planning and Development Department. She stated that Metro, and in turn the Planning Dept., is transitioning from larger project and policy development to a focus on targeted community development initiatives. Ms. McArthur overviewed the different program elements of the Community Investment Strategy (CIS). CIS is divided into four initiatives that:

1. Create a blueprint and set policy direction for the region;
2. Implement the regional blueprint at the community level through updates to local plans and prioritizing investments at a local level;
3. Target investments at the local and regional level; and
4. Build main streets and create jobs by building business, industry, housing and infrastructure through the public and private sector.

Ms. McArthur highlighted examples of initiatives – such as the Climate Smart Communities scenarios project or walkability audits – for each of the CIS activities, illustrated how each of the activity areas are interconnected, and changes in Council and staff roles. To illustrate the transition, Ms. McArthur used the SW Corridor project as an example. She overviewed different locally-driven investments throughout the corridor. She emphasized that the project focus is about investing in local communities and focus areas (e.g. through TGM or CET funds) that help to realize local aspirations. Ms. McArthur stated that programs such as Transit Oriented Development, brownfield clean up, walkability audits, etc. create readiness for other larger regional investments like the SW Corridor project. (Handouts included as part of the meeting record.)

Council discussion included:

- The need to add locally-driven initiatives, such as Aloha-Reedville or Tualatin-Valley Highway, as a separate CIS activity area;
- Potential conflict between incorporated and unincorporated areas;
- The relationship between the TOD typology information and community readiness; and
- The Metro Policy Advisory Committee's 2012 work program and interest in other programs (e.g. annexation or affordable housing) outside the Planning Dept.'s FY 2012-13 draft budget. If council and MPAC decided to shift focus, the department's budget and program allocations will need to be revisited.

Councilors generally discussed the local response to the SW Corridor project, emphasizing the general sense of pride among the communities that comes from working together.

In addition to Ms. McArthur's presentation, Mr. Jim Middaugh of Metro briefly overviewed a new CIS engagement strategy that builds local support for investments needed to achieve desired outcomes. Under the new system, individual local engagement budgets would be consolidated and streamlined across departments. Mr. Middaugh emphasized the improved cross-departmental collaboration, improved agency and project narratives, and consistent/regular messaging and engagement tactics. (Handout included as part of the meeting record.)

Councilors discussed the need to be more strategic with quarterly exchanges and better understand local communities' activities. Councilors discussed opportunities for Metro staff, such as the Council policy coordinators or legislative coordinator, to play a larger role in local engagement. Members also recommended Metro's legislative agenda and reserve concept planning work be added to the list of CIS projects that require local engagement.

#### **4. SUMMARY, Q&A, NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Bennett briefly summarized Council's direction:

- Reconfirmed Council's priority initiatives from the Nov. 30 retreat with three project additions: MEI, NIN and cemeteries capital project.
- Support for the new direction of the Planning and Development Department, CIS and CIS engagement framework.

#### **5. ADJOURN**

Councilor Hosticka provided a brief update on the 2012 Oregon Legislature, specifically House Bill 4090 regarding provision of services to unincorporated areas.

Seeing no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 4:51 p.m.

Prepared by,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement Coordinator

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEB. 21, 2012**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2.	Compass	N/A	The Metro Compass	22112c-01
3.	Flowchart	2/10/12	Community Investment Strategy	22112c-02
3.	Map	2/2/12	SW Corridor	22112c-03
3.	Handout	N/A	Planning and Development Department FY 12-13 Budget Narrative	22112c-04
3.	Handout	N/A	CIS Engagement Framework	22112c-05
	Report	N/A	FY 2011-12 Second Quarter Report	22112c-06