



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
May 8, 2012  
Metro Council Chamber

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

**Councilors Excused:** Councilor Carl Hosticka

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:03 p.m.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE /CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro noted that the regular Council meeting is canceled on Thursday, May 10 due to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) hearing on Metro's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Ms. Bennett informed council that she and Council President Hughes met with reporters from the Oregonian and Portland Tribune to discuss Metro's position on the UGB discussion.

**2. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS**

Ms. Robin McArthur of Metro introduced Climate Smart Community (CSC) scenarios staff and put the project in context of the Community Investment Strategy (CIS), which seeks to create the right conditions to stimulate investment throughout the region. Ms. McArthur indicated that the CSC project is transitioning into Phase 2, where the focus will be on working with local governments and community stakeholders to shape and narrow choices.

Ms. Kim Ellis of Metro provided an overview of Phase 2 and noted common themes across the region including the need for more clarity on how specific choices will affect communities. Moreover, feedback from Metro's outreach efforts has indicated that CSC should tailor choices for each community in order to reflect local ambitions. Ms. Ellis emphasized that Metro's community engagement efforts should take the form of a dialog among local governments and stakeholders.

Ms. Ellis overviewed the project timeline and pointed out key benchmarks such as the evaluation of results in 2013 and the development of preferred scenarios in 2014. Ms. Patty Unfred of Metro discussed goals for engagement, which focus on recognizing local community aspirations, developing a shared understanding and highlighting the benefits of working together. Ms. Unfred then described strategies to build community ownership and support for narrowing the process in fall 2012. These strategies included, scorecard workshops, community aspiration case studies, Envision Tomorrow training, coordination with SW Corridor, local government workshops on community aspirations, seminar series, online engagement and a CSCS Summit.

**Council Discussion:**

Councilors discussed the project timeline and questioned whether information already gathered and analyzed could influence policy decisions before final phases. Ms. Ellis explained that the CIS and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) have been influencing decisions compatible with CSC project goals. Ms. McArthur accentuated that CSC, the CIS and the RTP are collaborative strategies to implement the 2040 Concept Plan.

There was discussion about the perception of the project among more skeptical local leaders and partners. Councilors described apprehension for CSC when it is perceived as a top-down regional project that will challenge local decision making. It was noted that elected officials are sometimes less enthusiastic than their staff, which could be a result of ineffective framing or not having enough time to fully understand the project. Councilors described conversations with mayors who are less concerned with climate issues and more focused on revitalizing downtowns. The approach to thoughtfully engage local jurisdictions in a manner that recognizes shared goals that both mitigate the effects of climate change and create vibrant communities was emphasized by councilors and project staff. Councilors added that the results of Phase 3 will be more successful if Phase 2 is executed well.

**3. BREAK**

Council recessed for 5 minutes.

**4. STATUS UPDATE ON ORGANICS PROGRAM**

Mr. Paul Slyman of Metro provided a scheduled 6-month check in to Council regarding the status of the Organics program, which Metro adopted in confluence with the City of Portland curbside composting initiative that began on Oct. 31, 2011. Mr. Slyman explained that Metro has experienced operational changes with residential organics now being sent to transfer stations. Commercial organics have been processed since 2005. Mr. Paul Ehinger of Metro describe the transition process to accepting residential organics and noted some challenges from comingling yard debris and food. Waste facilities that accept organics must have a special license issued by DEQ, which has limited the number of locations in near the Metro region where transfer stations can send organic waste.

Mr. Ehinger explained the odor issue with the Nature's Needs waste facility in North Plains as a result of more than anticipated organic waste at that particular site. One challenge that Metro must address, Mr. Ehinger stated, is the distribution of organic waste in and outside the region. Mr. Slyman then discussed the problematic issue with distances traveled to more evenly organic waste. A portion of the city of Portland curbside organic waste is driven over 200 miles away to locations in Washington. In response to changes in operations, Mr. Slyman asked Council if Metro staff should conduct an interim evaluation of the environmental and economic changes created to the solid waste system.

**Council Discussion:**

Councilors expressed interest in learning the environmental and economic impacts of operational changes since the residential organics transition. There was also interest voiced in learning about the performance of the waste stream and how contamination is mitigated and affects the system.

Councilors then discussed the timing of evaluation and questioned whether it would be prudent to wait longer than six months before a formal assessment. The private sector's role and development over time to accommodate more organic waste in the region was considered a key factor in the current distances organic waste must travel. Councilors speculated that once more waste facilities obtain the necessary DEQ licensing for organic waste, the system can be made more sustainable and efficient. Mr. Ehinger noted that solid waste data is more conclusive today than it was before the organics program began, but that more time could give staff useful data to analyze.

Councilors discussed how an expansion of the organics program to other local jurisdictions could impact the solid waste system. Ultimately, there was agreement that staff should wait to conduct a systems evaluation, but that staff should continue to collect data such as tracking tonnage and contamination.

#### **5. FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 THIRD QUARTER MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Mr. Scott Robinson of Metro presented highlights from the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Third Quarter, which included updates on the visitor venues, as well as Metro's programs and operations. The Oregon Convention Center's (OCC) received a high service rating and Portland Coffee Roasting opened a café in the lobby of the OCC. Cirque du Soleil was a success at the EXPO Center with solid attendance and effective implementation. The Zoo experienced 13,000 visitors for Packy's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Mr. Robinson then reported on Oxbow Park's reopening after flood damage and the slated opening of the Blue Lake Disc Golf Course. Mr. Robinson noted that the East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP) is nearing completion and that the SW Corridor Plan is moving forward, while CSC will transition into Phase 2.

#### **Council Discussion:**

Councilors briefly discussed the loss of federal dollars for mandated planning and how future gaps need to be properly communicated to regional partners.

#### **6. COUNCILOR BRIEFING/COMMUNICATIONS**

- Councilor Harrington reported on an update to the Regional Active Transportation Plan (RATP), which is currently examining existing conditions and identifying barriers to development.

#### **ADJUORN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:33 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF May 8, 2012**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>4.0</b>	PPT	5/8/12	Status Report of Organics Program	50812cw-01
<b>5.0</b>	PPT	5/8/12	Third Quarter Management Report	50812cw-02
<b>5.0</b>	Handout	N/A	2012 Zoo Summer Events	50812cw-03
<b>6.0</b>	Handout	N/A	Update on the Regional Active Transportation Plan	50812cw-04