



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
June 7, 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 2:06 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE /CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro reported that on Wednesday, June 13 Parks and Environmental Services (PES) will have an all-staff day of service and picnic and Blue Lake Park. Ms. Bennett also noted the opportunity to take a jet boat tour of the Willamette Falls site, which will be hosted by Oregon City. Councilor Harrington then mentioned the series of upcoming MPAC tours that will take place throughout the summer.

2. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE STRATEGY

Council President Hughes welcomed and introduced four members of the Community Investment Initiative's (CII) Leadership Council; Mr. Randy Miller, Mr. Burton Weast, Ms. Karen Williams and Mr. Joe Rodriguez. Mr. Miller opened the CII strategy discussion with background information on the Leadership Council, noting that the group of 26 leaders from the Portland metropolitan area has been meeting for 16 months. The CII aims to invest in infrastructure and embolden the region's economy with creative tools and a collaborative approach. Mr. Miller highlighted four strategies (listed below) the CII has identified to make the most of existing and future public resources.

1. Invest in the roads, sewers, bridges and other infrastructure our communities need to prosper
2. Foster conditions that support development ready communities
3. Ensure the reliable and efficient movement of goods and people across the region
4. Protect and enhance our communities' investments in school facilities and properties now and in the future

Mr. Miller noted that the region currently lacks the resources necessary to prioritize investments, support capital improvements, focus on unmet needs and promote innovation. Mr. Weast added that the region is faced with declining personal incomes, lower graduation rates, unemployment and decreasing revenues for sewer, water and transportation infrastructure. Mr. Weast then explained that partnership with the State of Oregon is important because support from the legislature could lead to the creation of a statewide investment entity, which offers large scale economy that can be locally driven.

Mr. Weast discussed the significance of fostering communities ready for development and how government can play a key role in streamlining the permitting process. Regarding transportation investments, Mr. Weast noted that declining gas tax revenues calls on local governments to test alternatives funding sources. In addition, it was noted that a well functioning transportation system must focus on strategic regional investment, freight mobility, system safety and connected, livable communities in order to grow a prosperous economy.

Mr. Weast then argued that supporting strategic investment in school facilities and infrastructure is vital to building a skilled workforce in the region. High schools, community colleges and public universities have committed to improving students' educational experience by offering more courses in applied sciences such as engineering. These courses, however, often require more technical facilities, which have been historically underfunded. It was acknowledged that there are many nonprofit and advocacy groups working to the better fund and equip the public school system. Mr. Weast explained that the CII and Metro can support these efforts by compiling and assessing data on school facilities and enrollment throughout the region.

Member of the Leadership Council stressed that the CII does not plan to, or even have the authority to, redirect public funding away from local control, such as the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation's (JPACT) authority to allocate federal funding. Ms. Williams noted that the CII's ability to leverage private investment could potentially accelerate JPACT sponsored projects. Mr. Miller then asked for councilors' perspective and insight on the CII Strategic Plan, given that councilors understand the issues and have relationships will communities across the region.

Council Discussion:

Regarding the regional investment entity proposal, Councilors expressed thoughts on the CII's strategy to closely partner with the State of Oregon, noting that the distribution of funds statewide could result in less return on investment for the Portland metropolitan region. Ms. Williams stated that regional funds would not become a statewide funding source, but rather, the partnership with the state would seek to merge broad-based skill sets to assist on statewide infrastructure projects.

There was discussion about the CII's strategy to address school infrastructure, during which councilors expressed interest but also apprehension. There was agreement that a well functioning public education system is a key component of regional economic development. Councilors recommended that the CII play a supportive role rather than attempt to redesign or take on general school funding strategies. Ms. Williams explained that the CII aims to partner with public and private entities that can work collaboratively to deliver specific, concrete projects such as securing funding to retrofit school facilities. Mr. Rodriguez noted that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses can prepare students for the job market, especially if regional coordination can connect public school curriculum with the educational background needed the skilled workforce.

Councilors then reiterated caution in taking on education redesign, stating the tax reform is at the root of the issue. Leadership Council member concurred that Oregon's tax structure is the primary reason for unstable education funding in the state. Mr. Rodriguez commented that school infrastructure is currently paid for out of the general operating fund, which also finances classrooms. Ms. Williams argued that reducing the cost of occupancy for schools can increase their working capital, and as a result, improve the educational experience for students and families.

Councilors recommended that the CII continue their independent work but also utilize relevant data collection and analysis at Metro, specifically noting the work being done on equity.

3. COUNCILOR BRIEFING/COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Collette mentioned a proposed best practices trip to Atlanta in April 2013. Mr. Miller was commended for his efforts organizing best practices trips.
- Councilor Craddick noted the Opt In survey regarding the Glendoveer Golf Course will be solicited for public feedback on how to modify and improve the facility.
- Councilor Craddick reported on the Oregon Zoo Foundation's meeting from last week, where new board members were introduced.
- Councilor Craddick then mentioned the Intertwine Alliance meeting schedule for Friday, June 15.
- Councilor Collette shared her experience at the opening celebration for the Trolley Trail, which had a great turnout.
- Councilor Harrington recapped the Westside Trail Master Plan's two open houses where there was a lot turnout and community feedback solicited, most of which was positive.

ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:28 p.m.

Prepared by,



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2012

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
3.0	Brief	N/A	Study Tour to Atlanta – Communication Project brief	60712cw-01
3.0	Article	6/7/12	Plan Proposes New Funding Pipeline for Growth (Portland Tribune, Jim Redden)	60712cw-02