



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
September 11, 2012
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilors Rex Burkholder and Carl Hosticka

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 9:33 a.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Robinson reported to the Council on several items:

- Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett will be out of the office until September 17 while she is participating in Cycle Oregon.
- Recology Oregon Material Recovery, Inc. has requested an amendment to their existing solid waste license at the Foster Road Recovery Facility. Recology has requested to reload residential yard debris mixed with food waste from the Portland Residential Compost Program to an authorized composting facility.
- At last week's retreat session the concept of a budget amendment to fund limited English proficiency research was introduced. This research is mandatory for Metro to continue to receive federal funding. The budget amendment will be brought before the Council on September 20.
- Waterfowl at the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area are experiencing a wildlife disease outbreak, and as a precaution, its waters are closed to paddlers until further notice. Dan Moeller will be serving as the spokesperson for the situation so all questions should be routed to him.
- Metro's janitorial contract with PHC Northwest will be rebid due to concerns that bias was involved in the previous round of bidding. Although Metro does not believe bias occurred, Metro will redo the entire bidding process to ensure public transparency.

2. METRO CODE TITLE X CHANGES TO CHAPTER 10.04 PIONEER CEMETERIES

Ms. Rachel Fox of Metro presented to the council on proposed updates to Metro Code Title X, Chapter 10.04. The independent cemetery consultant Metro worked with in 2011 to improve cemetery operations recommended that Metro consider updating the code. Title X establishes rules that govern the use and operation of Metro's Parks, Cemeteries and Natural Areas.

The Code is being amended to update language and terminology, and update provisions relating to pioneer cemeteries administration that better align with similar cemetery operations in Oregon and the United States. The update to Chapter 10.04 conforms to the Oregon Revised Statutes, cemetery industry standards, and provides a comprehensive and clear set of policies for Metro staff and customers.

The presenters are asking the Council to approve Ordinance No. 12-1286, which would update Metro Code 10.04. Approval would allow Metro's cemeteries to operate in a way that would maximize financial benefit, provide for long term stability, and continue to maintain the properties and provide for their continued care and protection.

Council Discussion:

- The Council asked staff how they would handle cases of unauthorized decorations and modifications made to gravesites that might fall in between cemetery rules. Staff stated that dealing with decorations varies in difficulty from very easy such as in the case of removing old teddy bears, to very difficult when customers have made expensive, permanent modifications. Staff indicated the Cemetery Advisory Committee will be integral in reviewing special cases.
- The Council felt uncomfortable about imposing rules on families that tell them what they aren't allowed to do, especially in a time of mourning. Staff clarified that the purpose of the rules is not as much to restrict what families can do as it is to protect other grave sites from being encroached upon by unauthorized decorations, modifications, etc.
- The Council was concerned that the cemetery rules might come into conflict with cultural practices regarding gravesites. Staff responded that it was cognizant of such practices and that they will be working with cultural groups such as the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization to ensure that the cemetery rules are sensitive to cultural needs.
- The Council discussed at length the rules regarding who and what can be buried together or next to each other in the same grave site. Scenarios included same-sex partners, dogs with owners, and cremated remains placed with corpses in coffins. Staff stated that they do the best they can to accommodate such requests, and that staff is responsible for documenting the contents of what goes into each grave for cemetery records.

3. GROWTH MANAGEMENT DECISION DEBRIEF

Mr. John Williams of Metro and Mr. Dick Benner formerly of Metro came before the Metro Council to debrief the most recent growth management decision process, provide feedback on its successes, and discuss suggestions for improving the process for the next cycle.

The debriefing specifically focused on three aspects of the last cycle. First, review of the use of an outcomes-based approach for the last growth cycle instead of the numbers-based approach that had been used previously. Second, review of the timeframe of the last growth cycle, and direction for timing in the next cycle. Third, review of the concept planning process from the last growth cycle, and direction for approaching concept planning in the next cycle.

Due to the fact that the previous growth management cycle has not been officially finalized, staff has yet to assemble detailed plans for the next cycle. However, the presenters are seeking Council direction at this early juncture to make future growth management processes as effective and efficient as possible.

Council Discussion:

- The Council recognized the outcome based approach used during the most recent cycle as groundbreaking. Instead focusing on a single point, the outcomes based approach looked at a range of outcomes, and consequently established a new methodology for assessing and fixing regional issues.
- The Council believed that Metro did a better job of engaging localities during the most recent cycle than it did for the cycle which ended in 2002. In 2002 localities complained they weren't provided the opportunity to give feedback as a part of the process, there were no such complaints this time around.
- The Council discussed continuing outreach efforts seen in the last cycle as integral to achieving success in subsequent cycles. The Council saw projects such as Climate Smart Communities as potential avenues to continue engaging localities.
- The Council deliberated how the concept planning process should be handled for this upcoming cycle as there have been issues in the past. The Council stated that there needs to be clear and concise guidelines regarding concept planning. Jurisdictions need to know what is expected of them when they begin the concept planning process. Also, jurisdictions need to know what happens if they complete concept planning and then are not accepted for expansion.

4. UPDATE ON THE 2015-18 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Josh Naramore of Metro presented to the Council an update on the 2015-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The region is currently preparing to prioritize transportation projects and program activities in developing the 2015-2018 MTIP. Funding for the MTIP is administered through the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA), a process overseen by Metro and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

Recent changes to the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) have accelerated the process for allocation. Consequently, at JPACT's September meeting Metro staff will seek input on a proposed schedule to align the 2015-2018 MTIP and STIP, and direction on a preferred option on allocating 2016-2018 regional flexible funds. As a result of recent federal legislation Metro will receive an additional \$37.78 for the next allocation. Three potential options for spending the additional \$37.78 million were presented to the Council:

1. Maintaining the current 25%-75% split between Green Economy/Freight Initiatives and Active Transportation/Complete Streets.
2. Revisiting the funding split for the additional funds.
3. Using the additional funds for potential new project categories.

Staff is seeking to aid the Council in providing direction and input to Council JPACT members on the 2016-18 regional flexible funds options in advance of the September 13 JPACT meeting.

Council Discussion:

- The Council requested further information on where exactly the \$37.78 million that remains for the 2016-18 RFFA allocation comes from. Staff clarified that U.S. Senate Bill MAP-21 changed the allocation process to the states. For the Urban Service Transportation funds there is an increase to both the state of Oregon and the Portland Metropolitan region and that is where most of the additional funding will come from.
- The Council considered how choosing option number 1 would reinforce the commitment made to the projects with the last allocation. Subsequently, new projects that might fit into the original framework could be integrated as well, essentially combining options 1 and 3.
- The Council discussed the possible complications that could come as a consequence of choosing option number 2. Council felt that revisiting the funding split between Green Economy/Freight Initiatives and Active Transportation/Complete Streets was not the most efficient choice and might only complicate the process further.
- The Council deliberated whether the potential new project categories outlined in option number 3 were worth allocating all of the additional funding. The Council discussed the newer concepts of corridor plans, safety plans, industrial land access, jurisdictional transfers, and TIGER IV as projects that could benefit from the additional funding.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Carlotta Collette informed the Council of Metro's successful night at the recent 2012 OTREC Awards ceremony. At the Ceremony Metro was recognized as OTREC's Partner of the Year. Additionally, Metro's Andy Cotugno took home the Peter DeFazio Hall of Fame Award recognizing his leadership contribution that reflects Congressman Peter Defazio's values and advances OTREC's theme of advanced technology, integration of land use and transportation, and healthy communities.

6. ADJURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 11:52 a.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adam Gardner
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.0	Handout	9/11/2012	Council Meeting Agenda	91112cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	9/11/2012	Cemeteries PowerPoint Presentation	91112cw-02