



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
January 15, 2013
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Carlotta Collette, Shirley Craddick, Kathryn Harrington, Craig Dirksen, Sam Chase and Bob Stacey

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 9:31 a.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Martha Bennett reminded the Council that they have been assigned homework by their Council retreat facilitator that is to be completed prior to the retreat later this month.

2. AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF THE 2003 SERIES FULL FAITH AND CREDIT BONDS

Ms. Kathy Rutkowski and Mr. Tim Collier of Metro presented to the Council on Authorizing the Refunding of the 2003 Series Full Faith and Credit Bonds.

Metro's financial advisor, Seattle Northwest, has identified an opportunity to achieve sizable savings from refunding the Series 2003 Full Faith & Credit bonds. The 2003 Series bond was an advance refunding and IRS regulations only allow for one advance refunding on a tax exempt basis. Consequently, the new bonds will be issued on a taxable basis. However, even with a taxable issue an estimated \$220,000 will be saved in Fiscal Year 2013-14, with an average annual savings of about \$112,000 in subsequent years.

Eventually, Council authorization will be needed to issue long term debt. There is the possibility for Metro's financial advisors to review savings in 4-6 months if the Council were to not authorize the refunding at this time.

The presenters were seeking feedback from the Council on whether or not they were tending toward approving the current option, which would come before Council on January 24, or if they had other options in mind.

Council Discussion:

- The Council asked the presenters where the majority of the savings would be seen. Staff responded that approximately one-third of the savings would be in the solid waste fund and approximately two-thirds in the general fund.
- The Council asked the presenters whether the savings amount identified by the financial advisor was a hard number, or whether there were variables that could change the amount. Staff clarified that market conditions could have an effect on the total savings seen, and that the numbers were not finite.
- The Council discussed the possibility of waiting 4-6 months to review issuing a refunding bond. Subsequently, the Council gave the presenters the thumbs up to move ahead with the refunding bond at this time, having decided to not wait the 4-6 month period.

3. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE: REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ENTERPRISE FUNCTIONS

Ms. Maria Ellis of Metro presented to the Council on the Community Investment Initiative: Regional Infrastructure Enterprise (RIE) Functions.

The Regional Infrastructure Enterprise stems from the Community Investment Initiative whose guiding principles were laid down July 13, 2010. On September 20, 2012 the Metro Council approved the CII's most recent work program, and has been receiving monthly updates from the CII team. During that time the CII has been in the process of developing the RIE whose purpose is to facilitate infrastructure investment that catalyzes job creation, private investment, and economic development. As a part of the RIE development process the CII team has been actively engaging both public and private entities from municipalities around the region asking them what challenges and opportunities there are to infrastructure investments in their communities. With feedback gathered the CII is now ready to narrow down possible functions for the RIE. The CII is looking to identify:

- **What** should the RIE do? What functions, services, or skills should the RIE provide?
- **Where** should the RIE make investments? What principles and criteria should be used to decide where to make investments?
- **Who** governs the RIE? How should RIE be structured and who makes investment decisions?
- **How** will RIE fund its functions?

At this work session the CII team wished to inform the Council of the feedback they received from the public and private entities on their challenges and opportunities to infrastructure investments in their communities. Additionally, the presenters wanted to solicit feedback from the Council regarding potential functions for the RIE.

Council Discussion:

- The Council asked the presenters for clarification on what exact form the RIE could take. The presenters responded that the RIE could be an entity of Metro, like MERC, an entity of the state, or some other entity.
- The Council discussed the relatedness of the Industrial Site Readiness project to the potential functions of the RIE. The Council felt the Industrial Site Readiness project could be a jumping off point for the RIE.
- The Council discussed the possibility of the RIE being an entity that aids in prioritizing regional infrastructure needs.
- The Council discussed the possibility of the RIE being an entity that contracts out services to aid municipalities in overcoming infrastructure challenges.
- The Council agreed that whatever form the RIE takes its largest goal is to catalyze infrastructure investments that bring our region jobs.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Shirley Craddick reported to the Council on the most recent Zoo Bond Committee meeting.

Councilor Carlotta Collette reported to the Council on the most recent Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Committee meeting.

5. ADJUORN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 11:23 a.m.

Prepared by,



Adam Gardner

| Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2013

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	1/17/2013	11713 Council Agenda	11513cw-01
2.0	Powerpoint	1/15/2013	Developing Functions for the Regional Infrastructure Enterprise	11513cw-02