



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY**
February 14, 2013
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Carlotta Collette

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:55 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Martha Bennett reported one item to the Council:

- Thanked the Councilors for the retreat on February 12th. Noted that the comments from the retreat must be submitted by February 25th. The next retreat is on February 26th.

2. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS PROJECT: INVESTMENT CHOICES

Ms. Robin McArthur, Ms. Kim Ellis, and Ms. Patty Unfred, all of Metro, provided background and updates on the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Scenarios Project. The presentation's purpose was to gain input from the Councilors regarding the outreach proposed for the months leading up to the 2013 summit. Input was also received regarding the handout's articulation of the three CSC scenarios that were selected from the 144 original options. The meeting was a follow up to one last March/April.

Ms. Kim Ellis explained that during 2012, the Climate Smart Communities staff engaged with community stakeholders and local governments. The staff reached out to local businesses, formed focus groups, and explored the public health and equity implications of the three proposed scenarios. They are preparing for a summit in May 2013. The three scenarios will be presented at this summit.

Scenario A- Manage what we have with declining resources. As revenue declines, a larger share of available revenue will go to maintenance of current infrastructure.

Scenario B- Support planned growth with expected resources. City, regional, and state leaders partner to increase revenue sources in order to expand infrastructure, including transit and housing options.

Scenario C- Pursue new plans and innovations with expanded resources. Business and community leaders work together to find new sources of funding for maintenance of current infrastructure and investment in expansion.

Ms. Patty Unfred explained that the summit's content and format are still uncertain, but will focus on the questions brought up by the scenarios, not picking a scenario. Current case study research will also be presented at the summit and the feedback gathered from the case studies will be showcased.

Ms. Robin McArthur said that each of the three scenarios pays attention to the current 2040 plan. The CSC staff hopes to show local governments that the three scenarios fit within current community projects and plans, and are not new plans imposed by the regional and state government.

Ms. Patty Unfred asked that the Councilors meet with local officials and MPAC and JPACT officials in one-on-ones, in order to gain feedback regarding the project and the related policy, and to prepare these officials for the summit.

Council Discussion:

- The Council inquired about the third scenario in which transit is quadrupled. The presenters explained that this would be four times the current Regional Transportation Plan levels, not the current actual levels.
- The Council discussed concerns about the wording of the scenarios in the handout. The adjectives applied to the scenarios may turn the public away from the more ambitious scenarios. The Councilors noted that it is important to acknowledge that financing is a serious concern, but they don't want the finances of the projects to wholly determine the scenario selection. Councilors suggested a change in the phraseology in order to connect citizens to the scenarios on a personal level. They suggested using place-based language to make concepts more real, and using tangible examples to help the public see more than just the cost.
- The Council discussed the need to present the scenarios as large compilations of the current community plans, rather than presenting them as add-ons to current plans and policy.
- The Council discussed the differences in the three scenarios. The presenters noted that one scenario in its entirety will probably not be selected, but pieces of each may be compiled.
- The Council discussed the need to reword the scenarios, so they invoke questions rather than positions.
- The Council inquired about the consequences of reaching, or failing to reach, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission goals. The presenters explained that there are no substantive rewards or consequences for success or failure prescribed by the legislature. Because of this, the CSC staff said the project needs to focus on Metro's six desired outcomes, not on GHGs.

- The Council expressed concern about the short time available to schedule the one-on-ones with local officials and JPACT/MPAC officials. Councilors also discussed the need to engage local businesses and citizens in order to put pressure on local governments.

3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Kathryn Harrington inquired about a form distributed at MPAC that uses Washington County language, but has the Metro logo. Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennet responded that it is a Washington County document, not a Metro document, but noted that it would be further looked into.

Councilor Kathryn Harrington reported on opportunities presented by the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference.

4. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:41 p.m.

Prepared by,



Camille Tisler

| Council Office Policy Assistant

Metro Council Work Session

February 14, 2013

4

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF February 14, 2013

There were no attachments.