



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
April 2 2013
Metro Council Chamber**

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

Councilors Excused: none

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:04 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Martha Bennett updated the Council on the following five items:

- Travel Portland voted to support the Convention Center Hotel.
- Venues: the EXPO Center had its first million dollar month in February; the Zoo had record attendance at the annual Rabbit Romp; Blue Lake Park had record weekend attendance.
- The Regional Travel Options program is sponsoring the Portland Afoot event.
- The IPAD pilot program has commenced. There will be an experience log for the two participating councilors.
- There is an update to the staff report and resolution in legislation 13-4416.

2. COUNCILOR USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT METRO

Ms. Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney, provided information to the Council about policies related to the use of electronic devices at Metro. Ms. Kean Campbell overviewed laws related to the use of electronic devices in public meetings and public record laws associated with the devices.

Per Councilor inquiry, Ms. Kean Campbell noted that public records on private home computers are discoverable, but non-public records on the same computer are undiscoverable.

3. 2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND MEASURE STATUS REPORT

Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, of Metro, provided a status report on the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure implementation. She noted that the original goal of 3500-4500 protected acres has already been surpassed and 70% of the bond funds have been spent.

Ms. Brennan-Hunter outlined the three program elements:

- Capital Grants- A grant program for community oriented projects in four categories: urban transformation projects, restoration projects, acquisition projects, and neighborhood

livability projects. Ms. Brennan-Hunter overviewed several Capital Grants projects including: Mt. Scott Creek at North Clackamas Community Park, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Cornelius, and the White Oak Savanna in West Linn.

- Local Share- A program that supports local jurisdictions in community projects. There are three project types: natural area acquisition, restoration, and park and trail improvement projects. Ms. Brennan-Hunter detailed several Local Share projects including: Stites acquisition in Forest Grove, Fairview Woods restoration, and Beaver Creek Trail in Troutdale.
- Regional Acquisition- Expands protected areas, and creates networks to close land and trail gaps. Regional Acquisition focuses on 27 target areas, and several pieces of land have been acquired throughout the region including: Chehalem Ridge Natural Area, Canemah Bluff Natural Area, and Fanno Creek Greenway.

Ms. Brennan-Hunter noted the Oversight Committee which includes business, environmental, and nonprofit expertise. The Committee helped staff develop several tools used to measure performance and inform future action.

Ms. Brennan-Hunter also explained that future acquisitions will be more complex. Most easy acquisitions have been completed, so going forward staff will need to be more strategic.

Council Discussion Included:

- The Council discussed strategies to make Capital Grants more visible and accessible to local jurisdictions. Ms. Brennan-Hunter explained that turnover makes relationships with local governments difficult, and noted that some jurisdictions have a stronger relationship with the program than others. Councilors also expressed concern about local jurisdictions' ability to meet the financial criteria for obtaining grants. Ms. Brennan-Hunter clarified that two to one matches are needed for Capital Grants, but no match is required for local share funds.
- Councilors discussed the percentage of the bond that has been spent and the amount left. Ms. Brennan-Hunter offered clarification on the amount allotted to Capital Grants and the amount allotted to acquisition.
- Councilors discussed concerns voiced by a Washington County Commissioner. Options for addressing these concerns were also discussed.
- Per Councilor inquiry, Ms. Brennan-Hunter clarified that trail acquisition is prioritized by the building timeline.
- Councilors asked that prior recommendations from the Oversight Committee be brought back to the Council's attention to evaluate the resulting actions.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

Mr. John Mermin, of Metro, presented information about the bundle of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendments currently under consideration. He provided background on the amendment process and detailed each proposed project.

Mr. Mermin explained that federal law requires regions to have long term regional transportation plans, constrained by available revenue, that meet air quality criteria. The next RTP update is scheduled to be adopted in June 2014. Mr. Mermin noted that in 2012, Washington County inquired about a project not included in the last RTP update. This led to a solicitation for other potential amendments at TPAC in November 2012. There is now a bundle of proposed amendments to be considered by JPACT and the Council. Required public comment periods on the amendments will end on April 8, 2013.

The proposed amendments include the following projects:

- Washington County – Scholls Ferry Road lane widening;
- City of Beaverton – Crescent Street multimodal extension;
- City of Hillsboro
 - Gibbs Drive new 3-lane street
 - 253rd Avenue new 3-lane street
 - Butler Drive lane widening
 - Brookwood Parkway lane widening
 - Cornelius Pass Road lane widening
 - US 26/Cornelius Pass Road off-ramp widening
- East Metro Connections Plan
 - 238th Avenue multimodal improvements
 - Move regional designations from 242nd ROW to existing 238th/242nd
 - Designate North/South arterials to be equally significant for freight and vehicle movement
- Oregon Department of Transportation
 - Extend I – 205 Southbound auxiliary lane from I-84 to Stark/Washington
 - Extend acceleration lane on I-205 Northbound in vicinity of Powell and widen exit ramp at Stark/Washington
 - Extend I-5 Southbound auxiliary lane in vicinity of Lower Boones Ferry exit/entrance ramps
- Portland – North Williams Avenue bike/pedestrian safety project

Mr. Mermin explained that actions will be proposed at MPAC, JPACT, and Council meetings in late April and early May.

Council Discussion Included:

- Councilors discussed concerns about not including “buffered” in the language related to bike lanes on Brookwood Parkway and Cornelius Pass Road. Mr. Mermin noted that Washington County recommends bike lanes, but there is no specification in the amendment. Councilors noted that no specific design requirements should be given, but minimum standards of safety should be determined.
- The Council discussed the addition of auxiliary and stacking lanes that would create seven lane arterials and freeways. Councilors expressed concerns that these projects would affect air quality and safety. Mr. Mermin clarified that auxiliary lanes do not violate the RTP because they are not technically through-lanes, but noted that the definition of an auxiliary lane may need to be more explicit in the future.
- Councilors expressed concerns about the lack of outreach to local minority communities around the North Williams Avenue project. Mr. Mermin explained that the project was slowed to ensure further community outreach.
- Per councilor inquiry, Mr. Mermin clarified that the 35 day notice to the Department of Land Conservation is required by law.
- Per councilor inquiry, Mr. Mermin explained that for jurisdictions to add a project, they must also remove one in order to keep the funding balanced.
- Per councilor inquiry, Mr. Mermin clarified that national highway designations are not within Metro’s authority to change.
- The Council discussed the amount of information available during the public comment period.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES

Councilor Carlotta Collette provided an update on the draft letter from JPACT to Congressman Blumenauer, the RIE draft business plan, and the Blue Heron related trip to Washington, D.C.

Councilor Shirley Craddick provided an update on the North Portland Enhancement Committee.

Council President Tom Hughes provided an update on the legislative bill that would transfer the ownership of Portland bridges over the Willamette River to Metro (House Bill 3468).

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Craig Dirksen has a Question and Answer session at the Beaverton City Council Meeting.

Councilor Sam Chase will represent Metro at the League of Women Voters.

Councilor Collette noted her debate against John Charles.

Council President Tom Hughes noted that Willamette Falls is currently in the Governor’s budget.

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Councilor Craig Dirksen attended the Oregon Opportunity Network two weeks ago. He also noted that at the Key Leaders Breakfast, Council President Hughes was a key note speaker.

7. ADJURN

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

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF April 2, 2013

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.0	Letter		Letter to Congressman Blumenauer	40213cw-01
2.0	Handout		RIE Business Plan Outline	40213cw-02
3.0	PowerPoint	4/02/13	Natural Areas Program	40213cw-03
4.0	PowerPoint		2035 Regional Transportation Plan Amendments	40213cw-04