



**METRO COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON
2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENTS**

Meeting Summary
May 2, 2013
Metro, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Shirley Craddick

Council President Tom Hughes declared a quorum and called the public hearing to order at 4:15 p.m.

1. FIRST READ AND PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

Council President Hughes called for Ordinance No. 13-1304, and Resolution No. 13-4420, 13-4421, 13-4422, 13-4423, and 13-4424 to be read into the record by title and/or legislative number.

Mr. John Mermin of Metro provided a brief staff presentation on the ordinance and the five resolutions. His presentation overviewed the criteria for the proposed amendments, the state and federal requirements for amending the Regional Transportation Plan, and each of the proposed amendments:

- Ordinance No. 13-1304: submitted by the East Metro Connections project
- Resolution No. 13-4420: submitted by the City of Beaverton
- Resolution No. 13-4421: submitted by the City of Portland
- Resolution No. 13-4422: submitted by ODOT, Region 1
- Resolution No. 13-4423: submitted by Washington County
- Resolution No. 13-4424: submitted by City of Hillsboro

(See legislation for project details.)

Mr. Mermin stated that both the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) unanimously recommended approval of the legislation at their April 24 and April 26 meetings respectively. The Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) is scheduled to consider the legislation at its May 9 committee meeting.

Council President Hughes gaveled and opened a public hearing on of the legislation:

- Chris Greenhalgh, Reynolds School District: Mr. Greenhalgh spoke on behalf of the Reynolds School District. The school district has property involved in Option 3: The New 242nd

Connection of the East Metro Connections Plan. He expressed the District's support for Ordinance No. 13-1304. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)

- Dick Schouten, Washington County Board of Commissioners: Commissioner Schouten addressed the Council on Resolution No. 13-4424, and specifically why he did not support the Cornelius Pass Road project. He expressed discomfort with a 7-lane major arterial, citing unsafe transportation configurations and crossings for pedestrians, cyclists and even motorists. While he applauded the City of Hillsboro's work at adding buffered bike lanes, he stated that 7-lanes are at the edge of his comfort level – even as a seasoned cyclist. He believed that projects, such as the Cornelius Pass Road, would create a challenge in trying to mainstream bicycling. While the project was submitted by the City, Commissioner Schouten stated that the Commission does have some responsibility for this project as it is required to update its Transportation System Plan. Additional discussion included INTEL's new parking garage. He spoke on behalf of himself, not the full Commission.

Councilor Kathryn Harrington referenced and read from a letter submitted for the record by Mr. Andrew Singelakis of Washington County that expresses the county's commitment to add buffered bike lanes on both the Brookwood Parkway and Cornelius Pass Road projects. Councilors acknowledged the City's staff for taking the policies in the RTP seriously and providing additional detailed information on how the projects addressed the criteria in the RTP. Additional comments addressed investing in multiple transportation modes and options that benefit the workforce and goods movement.

- Rich Allen, Troutdale City Council: Councilor Allen expressed his support for Ordinance No. 13-1304. However, he did express a safety concern with the NE 238th project, specifically the number of proposed lanes. He believed that the street should have 4 lanes from the top to the bottom of the hill. He cited safety concerns for commuters as reasoning. He stated that while the city council was not formally asked to support his testimony, Councilor Allen anticipated his some of colleagues and citizens would support his comments.

Metro staff clarified that the proposed legislation would amend the financially constrained 2035 RTP to include the NE 238th Drive project. Pending the legislation's approval, design specifics and project alignment would be decided in the next phase of the project.

- Ben Bryant, City of Tualatin: Mr. Bryant addressed Resolution No. 13-4422 regarding a project to extend an existing auxiliary lane on Interstate 5 southbound at Lower Boones Ferry Road. He expressed the Cities of Wilsonville, Tigard, Lake Oswego, and Tualatin, and Washington County's support for the project. He stated that the cities and county see the project as a good win, and look forward to being a good partner with ODOT. Additional comments addressed goods movement along Interstate 5. (Written submittal included as part of the meeting record.)
- Chris Deffebach, Washington County: Ms. Deffebach addressed Resolution No. 13-4424 regarding the 7-lane Brookwood Parkway and Cornelius Pass Road projects. She reiterated the county's commitment to construct the bike facilities using the buffer lane style. County staff is currently working with the City of Hillsboro staff on both projects.

Seeing no additional members of the public who wished to testify, Council President Hughes closed the public hearing and opened the meeting for Council discussion.

Councilor Bob Stacey proposed and distributed a revised version of Resolution No. 13-4422 in response to questions and concerns he and other councilors raised at the council's recent work session. The revised resolution proposed to include an additional "BE IT RESOLVED" that states, "The 2014 RTP update shall clarify the definition, function, design and appropriate use of auxiliary lanes on freeways throughout the region." He stated that ODOT and Metro have different definitions for auxiliary lanes, and was concern future projects could vary from the RTP's definition of throughways without further discussion. While he concluded that the Lower Boones Ferry Road project addressed an operational issue that must be corrected, Councilor Stacey did state that ODOT and Metro should work together to define the role and function of auxiliary lanes. He stated that this policy discussion was appropriate to be addressed as part of the 2014 RTP update. (Memo and draft legislation included as part of the meeting record.)

Motion:	Councilor Stacey moved to ask the Metro Council to add to the JPACT packet a modified version of Resolution No. 13-4422, called Resolution No. 13-4422A. In addition, ask the Metro Council to instruct the Council's JPACT representatives to seek adoption of the "A" version by JPACT.
Second:	Councilor Carlotta Collette seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion

Councilor Collette seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. While Councilor Collette shared Councilor Stacey's concerns about the potential for auxiliary lanes to become real lanes, she did not support the motion. Councilor Collette stated that the definition of auxiliary lanes, what the term means, etc. and the safety transportation plan have already been included in the scoping for the next RTP. Staff confirmed that this request will be addressed in the 2014 RTP update.

Action:	Given Councilor Collette's comments, Councilor Stacey and Councilor Collette withdrew the motion and second respectively.
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Additionally, councilors thanked the City of Hillsboro and Washington County staff for their improvements to Resolution No. 13-4422 and expressed the importance for the projects to serve all modes.

Additional council discussion addressed the N. Williams project submitted by the City of Portland. Council discussed the city's work with the local community to define the project and the community's unanimous support for the project as outlined in Resolution No. 13-4421.

3. ADJOURN

All testimony provided at the May 2 public hearing will be presented to JPACT for its consideration on May 9. Second read and public hearing on Ordinance No. 13-1304, and Council consideration and vote on all legislation is scheduled for May 16.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Newell".

Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator