

METRO COUNCIL RETREAT

Meeting Summary

Nov. 14, 2013

Portland Expo Center, D201

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

Staff Present: Martha Bennett, Nathan Sykes, Andy Shaw, Ina Zucker, Amy Croover, Kelsey Newell, Nikolai Ursin, Colin Deverell, Ramona Perrault, Beth Cohen, Paul Slyman, Scott Robinson, Teri Dresler, Steve Wheeler, Andy Cotugno, Jim Middaugh, and Jim Desmond

Council President Tom Hughes convened the retreat at 2:10 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the November 14 council retreat was to provide the Metro Council time to discuss its shared strategic agenda and provide direction to the agency's senior leadership in preparation for the FY 2014-15 budget cycle.

2. FRAMING DISCUSSION

Mr. Jim Middaugh and Mr. Andy Cotugno of Metro provided a draft concept for framing the agency's activities over the next 18 months. Breaking down the region's 2040 growth concept map layer by layer, staff illustrated that investing in the built and natural environment will help to achieve the Council's six strategic goals. Staff described Metro's success in protecting natural areas and farmland and the importance of supporting investment in centers, corridors, and employment areas. Staff suggested a framework for the six Council strategic goals, as a hierarchy, as follows:

- Invest in infrastructure;
- Invest in the natural environment;
- Innovative planning to define investment;
- Role in regional economic development and job creation to focus on investment;
- Changes in demographics to better understand investment needs; and
- Building increased citizen support for investment.

Staff proposed that of the six strategic areas, two should be Metro's primary focus: investment in public infrastructure, and investment in preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. The remaining four areas are in support of the first two strategies.

Staff described Metro's past successes in securing funding to invest in the built and natural environment, and highlighted the agency's successful natural areas bond measures as examples of actions Metro has taken to foster investment in the region. Staff highlighted a series of opportunities for the Metro Council's consideration over the next two years that align and could

help to support the Council's investment in infrastructure. Examples included potential renewal of the construction excise tax, a 2015 Oregon state transportation legislative package, and preparation for the 2018 expiration of the parks and natural areas local option levy. While not all of the opportunities proposed required Council action in the next 18 months, all required preliminary work and preparation.

Council discussion

Councilors expressed support for the investment framework, and stated that some councilors were already using the framework to describe Metro's role as an investor in their local communities. Furthermore, some councilors believed that the agency had already begun to develop the investment framework and stated the 2010 community investment strategy provided the groundwork for moving forward.

That said, councilors expressed concern with how local jurisdictions may respond to the proposed framework, and believed that the local governments may not support an investment-driven framework. Councilors stated that jurisdictions may view Metro's agenda as reducing local governments' opportunity to raise additional revenues. Councilors discussed the need to engage and bring all perspectives to the table, and the importance of elevating the conversation to a regional level, versus suburban versus urban community discussion. Councilors emphasized the importance of great analysis and the need to illustrate Metro's value, and the value of the investments the agency provides, to the region. Councilors stated that a transparent process that reflects Metro's values would help to establish credibility among local jurisdictions. Councilors also looked forward to the December work session with DHM Research regarding its recent Oregon Values and Beliefs survey.

Councilors requested that the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update and a long-term funding plan for parks and natural areas be added to the list of opportunities to consider over the next two years.

3. DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Ms. Bennett presented a staff-proposed timeline for phasing the Metro Council's initiatives between January 2013 and December 2016. Staff sorted initiatives based on short and long-term timeframes, and the level of Metro Council attention, awareness or ownership that may be required in the next 18 months. Ms. Bennett asked Council to review the proposed phasing and: (1) identify any missing initiatives; and (2) adjust council's level of attention, awareness or ownership, and/or initiative's timeframe – as needed. (Council initiatives handout included as part of the meeting record.)

Additional Initiatives

Four or more councilors requested that the following initiatives be added between November 2013 and December 2016:

- A project to scope affordable housing was added as a council initiative between now and June 2015. Councilors added the project to the awareness category.
- A project to scope disaster preparedness was added as a council initiative between now and June 2015. Councilors added the project to the awareness category.
- A project to scope citizen engagement was added as a council initiative between now and June 2015. Councilors added the initiative to the awareness category.

Shifting Council Initiatives Timeframes

Four or more councilors requested that the following initiatives' timeframes or level of council awareness, attention or ownership be shifted between November 2013 and December 2016:

- The Southwest Corridor Plan project was moved from council ownership to council awareness in the next zero to 18 months.
- Step 1 of the agency's equity strategy, the equity baseline project, was moved up from council awareness to council attention in the next zero to 18 months.
- The 2015 urban growth boundary decisions were shifted up in priority from council attention to council ownership over the next 18-month timeframe.
- Funding for Willamette Falls was shifted up to council attention within the next 18 months.
- Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission's review of the First Opportunity Target Area was shifted from council attention to council awareness over the next zero to 18 months.

Ms. Bennett also asked councilors to briefly brainstorm other Metro or local government projects that may warrant Metro consideration in the upcoming months. Councilors flagged the following upcoming projects or issues:

- Metropolitan Export Initiative's Westside Corridor Study
- A 2015 Oregon Legislative strategy
- Potential Transportation System Plan updates
- Challenges in East Multnomah County
- Tigard ballot measure on light rail
- Metro's development opportunity fund
- Parks and park improvement construction costs

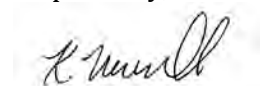
4. WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Bennett stated that staff would summarize the above information, and distribute a summary to councilors to review and confirm it reflects the Council's direction. In January, the Council will reconvene in an additional retreat to complete a risk and rewards exercise with a few of the Council-owned initiatives in the next zero to 18 months. Highlighted examples included the Regional Infrastructure Enterprise and referral of charter language on single family residential neighborhoods.

5. ADJOURN

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council retreat at 5 p.m.

Prepared by,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOV. 14, 2013

There were none.