



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
November 19, 2013
Metro Council Chamber**

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Martha Bennett welcomed Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant to Metro. Ms. Schmidt will serve as the Council's recording secretary for work sessions.
- The Oregon Convention Center will host the 2016 World Indoor Track and Field Championships in May of 2016.
- Employee participation for 2013 Charitable Giving is at 19 percent. The goal is 25 percent.
- Three Councilors attended a meeting on Willamette Falls on November 18, 2013 and the Walker Macy team is anticipated to release three proposed scenarios for the Willamette Falls in December 2013.

2. 2014 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) STATUS UPDATE AND SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND TRAVEL TRENDS

Mr. Tom Kloster and Mr. John Mermin provided a presentation on the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including demographic, economic, and travel trends. The latest 2035 Regional Transportation Plan was adopted in 2010 as a guide for transportation investments in the Portland metropolitan area over the next 20 years. Metro is required to update the plan every four years. The 2014 plan must be updated and approved by the USDOT by September 2014 to avoid delays in construction of local projects. Over the last few months, staff has been implementing the work program for the RTP update, which was approved by JPACT and the Metro Council in September 2013. Staff stated that one third of local plans have already been updated to reflect the current RTP.

Staff anticipates an updated RTP project list in December. Despite the economic downturn of the late 2000's, the Portland metropolitan region is growing across all four counties and holds more than half of the state of Oregon's population. The region is becoming more diverse racially, with minority groups growing faster.

Highlights from staff's presentation included:

- Diversity varies across age with youth more racially diverse.
- Diversity varies across regions and increased dramatically between 1980-2010.
- Poverty exists across the entire region.
- Millennials and Baby Boomers are the largest populations by generation.
- The region has largely recovered from the late 2000's economic downturn in terms of employment, but this varies by county.

Staff stated that the region must plan for the changes in demographics, such as Baby Boomers retiring and Millennials pursuing different lifestyles.

Staff stated that arterials have changed over the years, and what used to be state highways are now commercial, neighborhood and standard transit routes. Staff stated that ODOT and TriMet are currently discussing how to best service arterials. Additionally, ODOT and TriMet have encouraged local governments to approach ODOT with partnering opportunities to improve business thoroughfares.

Staff stated that local jurisdictions are using the above information to update their project lists.

Council discussion

- Councilors asked clarifying questions about how new information is used to update project lists and policies in local jurisdictions. Staff explained that the local jurisdiction is working with coordinating committees to think how this can be included and considered as a priority when picking amongst many projects for the RTP lists.
- Councilors requested more information on freight movement by district and across the region.
- Councilors inquired how earlier project plans carry into subsequent RTP plans. Staff anticipates that the additional time before the 2018 plan will provide more insight into what is not being done and why so that issues can be targeted.
- Councilors requested more information on connections between demographic shifts.

3. BREAK

Metro Council recessed for a short break.

4. ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Ms. Molly Chidsey, with an introduction by Mr. Jim Desmond, provided a status update on the agency's sustainability priority actions outlined in the Sustainability Plan adopted in 2010.

The 2010 Sustainability Plan calls for annual reporting on progress toward these goals. Ms. Chidsey overviewed the five goals adopted by the Council in 2010: reduce carbon, choose nontoxic, prevent waste, conserve water, and enhance habitat.

Ms. Chidsey distributed the Sustainability Scorecard info-graphic, a graphic that illustrates the agency goals for meeting the six targets by 2025. The exception to this goal date is for greenhouse gas emissions, which was set as 2050 to be consistent with state goals. The interim targets are marked as benchmarks toward the goal.

Ms. Chidsey explained that the agency is on track to meet its goals in greenhouse gas emissions reductions and habitat enhancement. Metro is not on track to meeting goals in toxics reduction or water consumption. Waste prevention is divided into two goals: increasing recycling, which is on track, and reducing waste, which is not. Parks present the biggest challenge to recycling.

Ms. Chidsey gave a preview of projects for 2014 including: solar PV, Glendoveer Golf course irrigation, Zoo bonds, and natural areas levies.

Council discussion

- Councilors expressed appreciation to Ms. Chidsey and the Sustainability Center for their work.
- Councilors were interested in how the Metro Council can aid the Sustainability Center in reaching goals. Ms. Chidsey said that support for staff in implementing and managing goals would be helpful. Ms. Chidsey explained that the first few years have been spent on projects with the biggest return on investment, but she starting to see a shift toward game-changing opportunities.
- Councilors inquired about the relationship between the agency's water consumption and the role of Glendoveer Golf course. Ms. Chidsey explained that since Glendoveer Golf course is an older golf course, it will require complicated capital investments to yield big improvements.
- Councilors expressed a desire to share future water consumption success with the public.
- Councilors clarified if toxic inventory statistics includes toxic chemicals used by hired contractors. Ms. Martha Bennett stated that toxic chemical use does include chemicals used by contractors, but that the contracting process can be used to influence chemical use.
- Councilors asked Staff if any goals should be adjusted upon reflection. Staff responded that current goals are stretch goals and that the Sustainability Plan actions to meet those should be re-evaluated in a few years.

5. FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Tim Collier provided a brief overview of the First Quarter Financial Report. He said that the first quarter's projected balance has been spent. He delivered an overview of trends in the first quarter:

- Solid waste tonnage is returning to Metro facilities and the region.
- Construction Excise Tax projects and collections are both positive.
- Portland Expo revenues are up without a change in the number of attendants.
- Standard property taxes are projected to come in up a little from their standard level.

Mr. Collier stated the following areas should be monitored for spending in the second quarter:

- Park revenues; and
- Zoo and Zoo Lights- particularly due to transportation construction and elephant lands.

Council discussion

- Councilors asked when the Metro Council would be addressing options for extending the Construction Excise Tax. Ms. Martha Bennett stated that the decision to extend the CET must be made by June 2014.
- Councilors asked about changes in the pursuit of grants by the agency. Staff said that they would look into any changes in grant pursuits.
- Councilors were concerned about building resilience for economic and community recovery, and expressed an interest in incorporating planning funds for unexpected disasters.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor communications included upcoming interviews for Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council executive director, and attendance at Travel Portland Board of Directors meeting, Willamette Falls Legacy Project, the Audit Committee Meeting, Aloha Reedville Planning Open House, Jackson Bottom Wetland, Oregon Zoo Bond Advisory Committee, and the Oregon Solutions Advisory Board. Councilors discussed the possibility of connecting the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects.

7. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Schmidt".

Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOV. 19, 2013

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	11/21/13	Council Agenda for Nov. 21, 2013	111913cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	11/19/13	2014 RTP Update Presentation	111913cw-02
4.0	PowerPoint	11/19/13	2013 Sustainability Report Presentation	111913cw-03
4.0	Handout	11/19/13	Sustainability Scorecard	111913cw-04