



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Summary

Dec. 10, 2013

Metro, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Changes concerning the consent agenda for the Metro Council Meeting on Dec. 12, 2013 included the removal of Resolution No. 13-4473 and the addition of Resolution No. 13-4474 and Resolution No. 13-4475 to the consent agenda.
- On January 6, 2014, the Oregon Zoo will host Zoo Lights for Metro employees.
- Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 was the Oregon Business Summit. Governor Kitzhaber announced plans to send a bill forward in 2015 for changes in tax structure that would take effect in 2016.

2. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS PROJECT: FIRST, LOOK AT RESULTS PART 2

Mr. Steve Wheeler introduced the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Scenarios Project, of which he said a range of projects in the Metro Planning and Development Department are supporting the objectives.

The 2009 Oregon Legislature required the Portland metropolitan region to develop an approach to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2035. Oregon Administrative Rule 660-044 directs the Metro Council to select a preferred approach by the end of 2014 after public review and consultation with local governments and state and regional partners.

Mr. Wheeler shared three take-aways with the Metro Council:

1. The Portland-metropolitan region must have an effective and improved transit system, primarily, but not exclusively, TriMet, to be successful.
2. Metro must partner with the state of Oregon.
3. The CSC project is transitioning from data development and analysis to policy discussions and scenario development.

Ms. Kim Ellis introduced the purpose of the presentation and its agenda: Councilor briefings on themes raised in briefings with local jurisdictions, to provide an update on the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project results and next steps, and to take questions from the Metro Council.

A briefing from the Council on themes and questions raised in their districts yielded the following summary. City of Portland, Multnomah County, and Washington County jurisdictions have all seemed supportive of the overall project and understanding of the challenges and goals. Washington County has mentioned concern over the program's ability to balance attention to jobs and housing. Councilor Collette stated a need to articulate the potential benefits for employment and economic growth with climate smart projects. Councilor Craddick expressed concern over the need for infrastructure to successfully implement a CSC scenario, which will require increased funding.

Councilors expressed interest in understanding how local jurisdictions' projects will be affected by the final preferred approach. Councilors want to communicate to local jurisdictions that CSC will support their project plans and help obtain funding for implementation. President Hughes commented that the 2009 Oregon Legislature required this approach from the Portland metropolitan region and CSC is an opportunity to coordinate projects for a regional strategy and to request funding from the Oregon Legislature. Councilor Harrington urged everyone to remember that the region has been successful in coordinating plans before.

Ms. Ellis updated the Council on the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project. Staff is currently working to prepare results of scenarios for January 2014. Ms. Ellis provided an overview of the phases ahead to shape Metro's preferred scenario by May 2014, staff evaluation during summer 2014 and Council consideration of adoption by December 31, 2014. Results of the three tested scenarios; A, B, and C, are divided into three parts, leading up to phase three in January 2014. The first set of results presented in November 2013 related to emissions, travel, air quality, housing, and job outcomes. The second set of results presented in December 2013 related to economic and social equity outcomes. January 2014 results will focus on costs and public health. Staff will also recommend policy areas to be the focus for further regional discussion and input in 2014.

Ms. Ellis stated that the policy areas would be the focus of community engagement activities in 2014 to help shape the draft preferred approach by May 2014.

Some highlights of results from the PowerPoint included statistics on household access to transit, including households of modest means, during peak and off-peak hours. Staff explained that these figures showed a need to ensure affordable housing choices are provided in areas that are well-served by transit. In all three scenarios there is a significant share of households served by off-peak hours service opportunities.

Ms. Ellis presented results on the economic benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which include social costs such as environmental impacts or impacts from freight truck travel time delays. These results were out of pocket social costs, not an external estimate. The CSC Scenarios Project; First Look at Results—Part 2 PowerPoint includes a link with more information on the calculations of these costs. Staff found that scenarios B and C would present significant cost savings over 25 years, compared to Scenario A.

Ms. Ellis reminded Councilors of the schedule ahead. She said staff is working to prepare additional materials such as a scorecard showing key take-aways, additional information pertaining to costs, and working with TriMet to estimate the costs of implementing transit in each of the three scenarios. Staff will bring forward a proposed process for shaping the preferred approach between January and May 2014. The process will recommend necessary policy discussions with local jurisdictions to prioritize projects for implementation. Ultimately it will be up to local communities to decide what they want to prioritize in their communities.

Ms. Ellis informed the Council that staff will be seeking their direction in May after they receive recommendations from MPAC and JPACT on the draft preferred scenario. There will be a 45-day comment period before the final project proposal is brought forward to the Council for consideration in December 2014.

Council Discussion

- Councilors differentiated transit service geographic coverage and frequency, asking for each to be reported. Councilor Dirksen requested graphics illustrating the increases in frequency and coverage to show where service is improved without changes in coverage. Staff responded that they would like to bring more of this information forward in January 2014.
- Staff clarified that fixed-route means routes with bus stops or other high-capacity transit, typically routes of transit that are responsive to demand.
- Councilor Harrington requested simplified illustrations of findings that connect decreased emissions with increased disposable income to provide clear messages on economic effects.
- Councilor Dirksen requested more information on delays and effects on individual commutes. Councilor Harrington recommended focusing on freight delay more than individual because congestion cannot necessarily be reduced. Staff agreed that time spent in traffic seems more relevant to people, and reminded the Council that information on time spent in traffic was presented in November.
- Councilor Chase stated that 35% of TriMet's riders are making less than \$20,000 a year and expressed concern for modest income households' financial access to public transit services.
- Councilor Stacey informed Councilors that the TriMet Board would be voting on an ordinance on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to extend transfer time from two hours to two and half. He said this would have a beneficial impact, but would not substitute for the problem of cost for those who cannot afford it.
- Councilors recommended a content table in CSC packets so that those who are familiar with the program can find the newest information and those who are unfamiliar can still access background information of the program. Councilors also recommended adding hyper-links to background documents in electronic materials as well as citations of background material for research results. Councilors requested changes in language on slide 23 to "improving transit across the region is essential to success" and on slide 26 to "investments and actions that reduce emissions and congestion provide economic benefits."
- Councilor Harrington expressed concern over coordinating Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and JPACT. Staff responded that they are working on scheduling a presentation from ODOT to JPACT and MPAC, stating that ODOT's work will complement Metro's CSC project implementation. Staff explained that ODOT staff are drafting a work plan to direct how they move forward with implementing the State-wide Transportation

Strategy accepted by the Oregon Transportation Commission in March 2013. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is scheduled to consider the work plan in February.

3. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES

Councilor Collette shared that the final concept plan for Willamette Falls is being reviewed. She expressed an interest in having representatives bring a presentation to work session.

Councilor Craddick recently attended the quarterly cemetery advisory committee meeting with an update on the reformation process.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

There were none.

5. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Schmidt".

Jill Schmidt
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DEC. 10, 2013

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	12/12/13	Council Agenda for Dec. 12, 2013	121013cw-01
2.0	Handout	11/15/13	Letter From Governor John A. Kitzhaber	131013cw-02
2.0	PowerPoint	12/10/13	Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project Presentation	121013cw-03