



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Summary

Jan. 9, 2014

Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:57 p.m.

1. THE METRO COUNCIL'S 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The 2014 legislative session begins February 3. As an even-year session, it is constitutionally limited to 35 calendar days and legislative leadership has imposed strict limits on the number of bills that can be introduced by individual legislators and committees. While staff has not submitted any Metro-led legislation for drafting for the 2014 session, staff is monitoring legislation that is likely to come forward and recommending that the Council take positions on several specific concepts.

Mr. Randy Tucker opened a discussion with the Metro Council regarding their priorities and principles for the 2014 legislative session. He proposed legislative agenda priorities, Exhibit A, as well as amendments to the Council's legislative principles, Exhibit B. Mr. Tucker reminded the Council that prior to a legislative session, a draft agenda is adopted, but that the Council will have opportunities to refine its policy direction as issues evolve and to take positions on new issues that emerge during the session.

Council began their review of the proposed legislative agenda by discussing the brownfields agenda item. Mr. Tucker requested that council endorse using the same language of their position as in previous years. Councilor Harrington stated her support for legislation on brownfields, but expressed a desire to also see legislation on industrial lands. Staff stated that rulemaking is under way for the legislation passed on industrial lands in 2013. Councilor Harrington requested that the legislative agenda and principles continue to articulate Council interest in ensuring that industrial readiness funding is advanced. Council approved continued support for brownfields funding in the legislative agenda.

For Oregon's Clean Fuels Program, toxics, and allocation of RV fees, Council approved continued support for pre-existing positions as outlined in Exhibit A to the draft Resolution 14-4500.

Council continued discussion on the agenda item related to the I-5 Replacement Bridge over the Columbia River. In response to Councilor Stacey's memo on the Columbia River Crossing (CRC), staff communicated their understanding of the Council position as based primarily on the Council's responsibilities and role in the region with respect to transportation, livability and air quality. Washington State has decided not to contribute financially to the project and Oregon is proposing to lead the project. Much of the discussion at the state level is over the financial risk to the state of Oregon of proceeding with an Oregon-led approach.

Council agreed that the first paragraph of the agenda item would remain identical to language adopted prior to the 2013 legislative session, and that additional, more specific provisions included in JPACT's agenda at that time and incorporated into the Council's 2013 agenda would continue to guide Metro's participation in this issue. Councilor discussion addressed reservations related to the funding risk Oregon could be taking by leading the project, but highlighted support for moving forward. Staff proposed language for the Council's agenda clarifying that questions related to the financial risk to the state of an Oregon-led approach are outside Metro's purview. Councilor Stacey stated that the proposed language presented by staff meets his concerns. Councilor Harrington highlighted the importance of using the phrase "continue to focus on" to emphasize consistency with past priorities while establishing that the Metro Council is not taking a position on the financial risk to the state. With these clarifications, Council approved the agenda item.

Mr. Tucker asked Council for direction as to a unified position on urban growth management, requesting clarity and revision of applicable principles. The Council's position will guide the staff response to proposed legislation that would declare the Council's 2011 decision expanding the urban growth boundary to be valid, thereby pre-empting ongoing legal appeals of that decision.

Council had a vigorous and wide-ranging discussion of this legislation and its possible implications and also provided feedback on the proposed phrasing of principles and priorities in their agenda. Topics discussed included:

- The length of time it takes to work through the acknowledgment and appeals process after the Council makes a major land use decision
- The short-term and long-term benefits and risks for the land use system and for Metro's land use authority of having the Legislature endorse and validate the Council's decision
- The appropriateness of interfering with the appeals process
- The appropriateness of adopting a position that seems to be asserting what issues the Legislature should and should not consider
- The possibility of remaining neutral on the proposed legislation

Council President Hughes indicated potential to find consensus among Council on a recognized desire to expedite the case in court. The Council then agreed to continue this discussion at the next work session.

Council gave support for the proposed priority on Local Improvement Districts.

The Metro Council and Chief Operating Officer agreed to continue the discussion of the 2014 State Legislative Agenda. Gain share, Damascus planning, and infrastructure innovation, as well as the continuation of the growth management conversation, were all re-scheduled for the work session on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

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ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Schmidt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JAN 9, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	01/09/14	Proposed Amendment to Phrasing on I-5 Replacement Bridge over the Columbia River	010914cw-01