



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Summary

Mar. 11, 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 2:02 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Metro Council's new Regional Engagement and Legislative Coordinator, Troy Rayburn, was introduced.
- The Construction Excise Tax advisory committee and timeline. Council will act on the potential to extend the CET in June 2014.
- Barbara Roberts will provide a presentation in the Metro Council Chamber on Wednesday, March 13 in celebration of Women's History Month.
- The Oregon Convention Center received LEED certification at the platinum level, making the OCC one of only three convention centers in the country with platinum certification.

2. 2014 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) STATUS UPDATE AND OVERVIEW OF CHANGES PROPOSED IN DRAFT RTP

Mr. Steve Wheeler provided a brief update to the Metro Council on the status of the RTP and its relation to the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). 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 United States Department of Transportation by September 2014 to avoid delays in federal funding needed for construction of local projects.

Mr. Wheeler reminded Council that Metro staff does not determine the structure of projects submitted from local jurisdictions, but rather receives local project proposals. Staff clarified that the RTP is a long-range plan and many projects within it may not be completed in the near future.

Mr. Wheeler introduced Mr. John Mermin who directed Council to a memo provided in the work session packet that outlined the changes proposed in the draft 2014 RTP. The memo included an overview of changes proposed in the draft 2014 RTP by chapter. Mr. Mermin concluded with a timeline for the 2014 RTP leading up to adoption. The RTP will hold a public comment period from March 21-May 5.

Council Discussion:

- Council inquired about the utility of RTP design practices and technical handbooks such as the mobility corridor atlas, and regional street design handbook for other jurisdictions. Mr. Mermin explained that the atlas aids planners in evaluating and planning for corridors and the design handbooks help local jurisdictions when they are developing designs for projects.
- Council asked clarifying questions about the chapters of the draft RTP, including: organization, evaluation and monitoring, and implementation.
- Councilor Harrington explained the variation in corridor planning on TV Highway.
- In response to comments from Council, staff explained that the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) is on the RTP project list because the Oregon Department of Transportation has continued to include CRC as part of the 30-year plan. Councilor Stacey requested that issues related to the CRC be considered for future RTP's. Council President Hughes raised questions about the language and avenues for addressing the CRC issue.
- Councilor Craddick inquired whether there were any projects that staff foresaw raising controversy among citizens and elected officials. Staff stated that while no such comments had been received, the comment period may bring them forth and that the RTP will continue to be accessible to Council as it is updated.

3. BREAK

Metro Council worked through the scheduled break.

4. REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ATP) PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Mr. Steve Wheeler introduced Ms. Lake McTighe and highlighted the importance of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) as it aligns with other transportation plans at Metro.

The ATP was identified as a follow-up activity in the 2035 RTP and was developed as a draft plan in July. The ATP serves to connect projects regionally and unite the region in building active transportation. Ms. McTighe noted that the ATP projects added to the RTP project list were identified by local agencies and jurisdictions.

Ms. McTighe provided Council with both a clean version and a red-line version of the draft ATP. Her update included an overview on the process to review and refine the draft ATP. She also shared foreseeable challenges and provided recommendations to achieve desired outcomes.

In reviewing the next steps moving toward adoption of the ATP, Ms. McTighe informed Council that the public review period for the ATP would align with that of the RTP. She proposed adoption of the plan by resolution with the work plan as Exhibit A and work program as Exhibit B. Metro Attorney Ms. Alison Kean differentiated adoption of the ATP by resolution versus ordinance and gave her explanation in support of adoption of the ATP by resolution.

Council Discussion:

- Council provided positive feedback on the ATP's organization.
- Council emphasized the importance of addressing equitable access and safety in transit and inquired about metrics to measure these.
- Councilor Stacey discussed the funding required to implement the ATP and estimated the annual cost to individuals being low compared to the cost of saving lives by reducing fatalities from crashes.
- Councilor Harrington requested that revisions to the ATP are made available for review.
- Council and staff discussed the relationship between the ATP and TriMet.
- Council and staff discussed engagement tactics for the project.
- Councilor Collette inquired whether staff or other Councilors are receiving feedback from local jurisdictions of concern. Mr. Wheeler stated that he hasn't heard concerns recently.
- Councilor Chase inquired about the Westside Trail's relation to the ATP and RTP. Ms. McTighe explained that the Westside Trail is identified as a regional bikeway and pedestrian thoroughfare and clarified that Council will be adopting the master plan of the trail. Councilor Chase updated Council on the Westside Trail's master plan timeline.

5. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATION

Ms. Alison Kean of Metro informed Council that she would hold her updates from the Office of Metro Attorney for the executive session immediately following the Council work session.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilors gave updates on the following meetings and events: the annual JPACT trip to Washington D.C., Willamette Falls Legacy Project, Cemetery Advisory Committee, and Metro's Solid Waste Program.

7. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAR. 11, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.0	Agenda	3/13/14	Council Agenda for Mar. 13, 2014	31114cw-01
1.0	Agenda	3/13/14	Council Work Session Agenda for Mar. 13, 2014	31114cw-02
2.0	PowerPoint	3/11/14	Status Update and Overview of Proposed Changes to Draft 2014 RTP	31114cw-03
4.0	Handout	12/17/13	Regional ATP Public Review Draft	31114cw -04
4.0	Handout	12/17/13	Regional ATP Public Review Draft with Track Changes	31114cw -05
4.0	Handout	12/17/13	Executive Summary	31114cw -06
4.0	PowerPoint	3/11/14	Preview Public Review Draft of the Regional ATP	31114cw-07