



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes
Apr. 8, 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 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Changes in commercial composting loads anticipated to go into effect Nov. 1, 2014 and Mar. 1, 2015.
- Initial plans for an off-site Metro Council meeting July 10, 2014 at Mt. Hood Community College.
- A learning opportunity on Wednesday, April 9 concerning engaging and working with underserved communities in the region.

2. COUNCILOR BOB STACEY'S PROPOSED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

Council President Hughes introduced Councilor Stacey's proposed amendment to the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and stated that if Council supported the action, the proposal would be presented to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) on Thursday, April 10. Councilor Stacey gave a brief overview of his recommended revisions discussed under Chapter 5 of the RTP at subsection 5.3.2.1. He provided an explanation of his motivation to include the Columbia River Crossing in the RTP:

1. There are real transportation needs in the corridor.
2. There may be something possible to do that is less massive, more affordable, and contributes to a solution.

Council Discussion:

- In response to Councilor inquiry, Mr. Andy Cotugno clarified questions concerning the role of federal funding in addressing sub-issues of the Columbia River Crossing.
- Councilor Harrington stated that she would not approve the proposed modifications due to the limited time available to converse with regional partners, concern of the project being

considered Metro's prevue, and limited time to resolve concerns among Council. Councilors Collette and Craddick agreed that the available time would not be viable. The Councilors stated support for moving forward in addressing sub-issues of the Columbia River Crossing, but would not want Metro's role to be perceived incorrectly.

- Council President Hughes and Councilors Chase and Dirksen expressed concern for the timeframe, but stated support for sharing the proposed RTP amendment with JPACT and evaluating next steps based on the direction of JPACT's conversation.
- Councilor Dirksen sought direction from Council on framing the proposal to JPACT later in the week. Council President Hughes noted that the conversation wouldn't have to happen at that time, but would serve as an invitation for consideration. Councilor Stacey gave his approval of JPACT Chair, Councilor Dirksen's approach for introducing the amendment to JPACT.
- Council inquired about the Bi-State Coordinating Committee that convened after the CRC project died in the State of Washington. Council President Hughes stated that the committee is tentatively scheduled to reconvene May 1.
- Councilor Collette stated that the RTP can be amended at any time and thus wanted to understand the urgency in including the amendment by May. Mr. Cotugno stated that the RTP is currently inaccurate by assuming the first phase of funding for the CRC would come from Washington. He stated that the first half of the amendment proposed by Council Stacey would allow for the sub-issues to be listed in the fiscally constrained RTP project list.
- Council agreed to recommend the amendment on Chapter 5, pages 19-20 up to the last paragraph as a potential amendment to the RTP reflecting the project's status.

3. THE PORTLAND EXPO CENTER

Mr. Matthew Rotchford provided an overview of the Portland Expo Center as a foundation for future discussions regarding the Metro venue. His presentation included the Portland Expo Center's vision, mission, history, orientation, annual business, exhibit hall usage, budget, and financial trends.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Harrington inquired as to how the Expo Center has remained relevant to the market it serves. Mr. Rotchford explained that the location of the Portland Expo Center allows it to host events that travel along the West Coast.
- Council and Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett discussed the levee issue as a regional issue in which levees need to be re-certified and the standard rate has grown for assessing certification.
- In response to Council concerns about detracting business from smaller venues, staff explained that the Expo Center wants to diversify and work with new partners to bring more events where facilities are available.
- Councilor Craddick inquired about the possibility of remodeling halls A, B, and C to accommodate greater capacities. Staff explained that it is under consideration, but need must be demonstrated.
- Councilor Dirksen requested follow up on whether larger capital projects could be funded within the operating budget. Staff explained that all paths need to be explored between vision and price point.

- Councilor Collette recognized the potential of the venue's location on the Columbia River. Mr. Rotchford stated that there are varying ideas on how to provide views from the venue.

4. BREAK

Metro council agreed to work through the scheduled break.

5. 2016-2018 REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUNDS ALLOCATION RETROSPECTIVE

Mr. Dan Kaempff provided a review of Metro's most recent Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA). Metro conducted a survey of 20 RFFA participants and interested parties upon the completion of the project selection process to gather input on how well the existing process had worked and whether it is continuing to serve the region well. The survey responses were presented to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC). Following presentations, the advisory committees directed staff to re-examine RFFA policy in light of changes, both recent and anticipated, in local, regional, state, and federal policies. Mr. Kaempff gave an overview of issues to be considered in looking at policy options for the next RFFA cycle, including: local planning and policy efforts or policy guidance from TriMet, Oregon Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration. He stated that staff would also look at travel behavior and trends.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Stacey encouraged staff to engage Council in similar discussions to those discussions at JPACT and TPAC.
- Councilor Harrington stated her hope that staff would find refined direction for what projects to continue to support through RFFA. Councilor Collette stated a need for clearer criteria for the funds.
- Councilor Stacey highlighted the importance of engaging with the community. Council President Hughes commented that Metro Council and staff would need to learn to speak about RFFA in more direct, simple language to engage the public.
- Councilor Collette and Councilor Harrington discussed the importance of the first step of the RFFA policy process and spoke of projects successfully implemented by the first step.
- Councilor Stacey inquired about comparable Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the county that have alternative ways of raising significant federal transportation budget funds.
- Councilor Collette inquired about the timeline of re-examining the RFFA policy. Staff stated that the next step is to make a schedule to get to Council. Councilor Harrington recommended staff briefings with Council to gather topics for work session discussions.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilors provided updates on the joint policy advisory committee meeting for Climate Smart Communities project, the annual event for Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Oregon Zoo Foundation, Port of Portland Industrial Land Expert Panel, City of Damascus, transportation forum at Madison High School, MERC Committee, Scouter Mountain tour, and the Zoo Art Committee.

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7. **ADIURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:28 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 APR. 8, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	4/10/14	Revised Council Agenda for Apr. 10, 2014	40814cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	4/08/14	2016-2018 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation Retrospective	40814cw -02