



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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 2:01 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Public release of the Oregon Convention Center Hotel room development and financing agreement. The public hearing for this project is scheduled for June 19 and Council consideration is scheduled for June 26.
- Sample tests of tamarin monkeys at the Oregon Zoo yielded inconclusive results. Council inquired about the previous conditions of the monkeys before arriving at the zoo and process for transferring animals. Ms. Bennett stated that an expected press release should answer such questions.
- Labor union demonstration rally anticipated for Saturday, June 21 at the Oregon Zoo.
- Annual Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser at Sunset Lanes on June 15.
- An annual gun and knife show to be held at the Expo Center the weekend of June 21, which could raise concern due to the recent shooting at Reynolds High School. Ms. Bennett distributed gun show talking points to be revised to address Council concerns.

2. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: FULL FUNDING FOR PARTIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HOUSE BILL 4078 AFFECTED PROJECTS

In August 2013, Metro Council awarded Cycle 3 Community Planning and Development Grants (CPDGs), funded by the construction excise tax, to 19 projects in the Metro region for a total of \$4.2 million. Under Resolution No. 13-4450, four of the 19 projects were partially funded: Gresham and Portland Powell-Division Transit and Development Project, Portland mixed-use zoning project, Sherwood and Washington County Industrial Site Assessment project, and Clackamas County Strategically Significant Employment Lands Project. This resolution was considered based on the recommendations of the Chief Operating Officer, which was informed by the recommendation of

the Screening Committee. The Screening Committee identified partial funding to four projects due to limited grant resources. The construction excise tax brought in approximately \$1 million more than the initial estimate in August 2013.

Ms. Martha Bennett and Mr. Gerry Uba proposed directing approximately \$333,486 toward fully funding the four projects that initially received only partial funding and to increase funding to Cornelius and Forest Grove to meet the requirements of House Bill 4078 and Metro Title XI.

Metro Council will consider this proposal under Ordinance No. 14-1328 on Thursday, June 19.

Council Discussion:

- Council clarified with staff that consideration to fully fund the four projects was at the recommendation of the Screening Committee. Staff confirmed that it was.
- In response to Council questions, staff explained that if approved by Council, Metro's current contracts with local jurisdictions would be amended and Metro would be billed after project completion.

3. SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN: REVIEW OF RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Malu Wilkinson provided an update on input and potential changes to the draft recommendation for Southwest Corridor High Capacity Transit alignment options to further study as recommended by the Steering Committee.

The Southwest Corridor Plan is a comprehensive effort focused on supporting community-based development and place-making that targets, coordinates and leverages public investments to make efficient use of public and private resources. In July 2013, the Southwest Corridor Plan Steering Committee narrowed the options for a potential high capacity transit investment to serve the corridor land use vision by recommending continued study of bus rapid transit and light rail transit, at least 50 percent of bus rapid transit in dedicated transit-way, and a route from Portland to Tualatin via Tigard.

Ms. Wilkinson explained the maps presented, which depict the land use vision cities worked on with communities to identify areas where they would like to direct anticipated growth. The map shows 12 design options. The Steering Committee agreed to eliminate a large number of options, but highlighted a few questions to address before entering the draft environmental impact study. These questions are described in detail in the meeting packet work sheet.

Highlights of key issues identified included:

- How to best serve Oregon Health and Science University, the Veterans Administration hospital and other facilities on Marquam Hill.
- How to best serve demand for transit in the Hillsdale neighborhood.
- Transit design options adjacent to Interstate 5 in Portland.
- Discussion of branch service between Tigard and Tualatin.
- How to best connect transit options to the existing transit mall in downtown Portland.
- How to connect to PCC Sylvania.
- Potential regional funding capacity and sources.

Ms. Wilkinson described Resolution No. 14-4540 to be considered by Council on June 26. The resolution would adopt the Southwest Corridor design options and direct staff to a refinement period to answer the above questions. Pending the Steering Committee's approval, it would also direct staff to move forward with an environmental impact assessment.

Council Discussion:

- In response to Council questions, staff explained cut and cover tunnel design as tunnel excavating and roofing for shallow tunnels.
- Council and staff clarified that Resolution No. 14-4540 would enable staff to enter a refinement period and then move directly into the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) process with the Steering Committee's approval without having to seek Council's approval on the refined design options. The plan will need to enter its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in November, before which, Council action would not be required with the resolution's current language. Council requested that the resolution be revised to require the plan to be considered by Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), and Council before submission to DEIS.
- Council discussed regional funding capacity for the corridor study and a timeline for opening the discussion. Council acknowledged that the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project would provide a greater sense of cost for transit options available to Powell-Division and Southwest Corridor Plans. Council and staff recognized that exploring the questions that the Steering Committee recommended for further discussion under the NEPA process would be less cost-effective than using a refinement period before entering the environmental impact assessment.
- Council discussed the need for speed and efficiency in expanding light rail relative to tunnel size and associated costs. Council also discussed the role of tunnels in competing with traffic, but stated that the City of Portland insists on light rail making multiple stops, including in downtown Portland.
- Councilor Harrington inquired about a no-build option to compare to design options studied. Staff explained that assuming the Steering Committee decides to move forward in DEIS, no-build would continue to be an option.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN STATUS UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Mermin provided an update on the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and final actions to be considered by Council on July 17. Mr. Mermin stated that the project was under the estimated budget and on schedule for adoption. Councilors gave thumbs up to staff to proceed for consideration in July.

5. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor updates included the ribbon cutting for a new natural area park in Beaverton, Connect Oregon V Final Review Committee, ACT Task Force, Willamette Falls Legacy Project, Scouter Mountain Tour on June 20, ribbon cutting for Trilium Creek Park, Travel Portland Familiarization Event, groundbreaking for Orchids, Institute of Metropolitan Studies Bi-State Conference, and Urban Growth Boundary discussions with Vietnam in a growing relationship between Oregon and Vietnam.

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6. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	6/19/14	Council Agenda for Jun. 19, 2014	61714cw-01
1.0	Handout	6/13/14	Portland Expo Center Gun Show Talking Points	61714cw -02
2.0	Handout	6/10/14	Staff Report to Resolution No. 14-4542	61714cw -03
3.0	Handout	N/A	Revised Resolution No. 14-4540	61714cw -04
3.0	Handout	6/9/14	Revised Resolution No. 14-4540	61714cw -05
3.0	Handout	6/9/14	Southwest Corridor Steering Committee Recommendation from June 9	61714cw-06
3.0	Handout, Map	6/9/14	Steering Committee Recommendation of HCT Design Options for Further Study (map)	61714cw-07
3.0	Handout	6/13/14	Steering Committee Recommendations on HCT Options, Multimodal Projects, and Potential Station Areas for Further Study	61714cw-08
4.0	Presentation	6/17/14	Status Update on 2014 Regional Transportation Plan	61714cw-09
5.0	Handout	6/12/14	Connect Oregon V Final Review Committee	61714cw-10