



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes
September 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 2:04 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Ms. Bennett invited Mr. Randy Tucker, Metro Legislative Affairs Manager, to present and explain Metro's recommended prioritization of the Oregon Transportation Forum (OTF) state transportation proposals.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Harrington inquired about the prioritization of funding for Amtrak Cascades. Councilor Stacey inquired about the reasoning and specifics surrounding the proposal prioritization process. Councilor Craddick inquired about consideration of proposals with competing priorities. Council President Hughes addressed the timetable for the OTF's consideration of its proposals. Councilors expressed support for the OTF's proposal to index gas taxes to increases in automobile fleet fuel efficiency. Councilor Stacey spoke to the importance of prioritizing funding for maintaining existing highways and roads over prioritizing funding for new road projects. Councilors discussed the OTF's "Policy and Planning" proposal to enact funding and policy approaches that further advance planning for greenhouse gas reduction in the state's urban areas, assist with the implementation of those plans, and direct that carbon emissions be considered as part of required land use and transportation plans, specifically in relation to Metro's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) project.

OTF requested prioritization of proposals on a 1 (low priority) to 4 (high priority) scale. With general agreement from Council, Mr. Tucker altered the following Metro staff-recommended OTF proposal prioritizations:

- Changed from 2 to 3 a "Policy and Planning" proposal to direct the Road User Task Force to develop an implementation phase-in strategy for transitioning the gas tax to a Road User Charge.
- Changed from 3.5 to 4 a "Fix-It" proposal to prevent the loss of revenue and purchasing power of highway funds by indexing taxes and fees to inflation.

- Changed from 3 to 4 a “Fix-It” proposal to increase funds to maintain highway infrastructure by adopting a \$300 million/year increase for maintenance and preservation of state/county/city highways and roadways (50/30/20 split).
- Changed from 2 to 3 a “Fix-It” proposal to provide \$22.6 million per biennium for Cascades AMTRAK service.
- Ms. Bennett invited Mr. John Williams, Metro Deputy Director of Planning and Development, and Mr. Ted Reid, Metro Senior Regional Planner, to present the corrected data tables for residential housing supply data in the Draft Urban Growth Report (UGR). As the result of a data entry error, housing data for the broader 7-county region were incorrectly utilized in calculating the available housing supply within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The correction of this error resulted in approximately 11,000 additional units in the single family housing supply over the 20 year forecast period. In moving forward with issuing a revised UGR, Metro staff have decided to honor a request from the City of Forest Grove, to include lands in the UGR added to Forest Grove by Oregon House Bill 4078. Mr. Williams described the steps Metro is taking to remedy the residential housing supply error, including the issuance of a memo to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), to explain the error and its correction.

2. 2015 URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT DECISION: RESULTS OF RESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE SURVEY – INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

Mr. Williams and Mr. Reid then presented the 2015 Urban Growth Management Decision: Results of Residential Preference Survey. They were joined by Mr. Robert Dixon, Assistant City Manager of Hillsboro, and Mr. Dave Nielsen, Chief Executive Officer of the Home Builders Association of Metro Portland.

The purpose of the 2014 Residential Preference Survey (RPS) was to gain a better understanding of preferences for different housing, community, and location characteristics, while analyzing how factors such as income, size of household, lifestyle, and other demographics relate to residential preferences in the region. The presentation’s desired outcomes were to provide Council with an understanding of the preliminary results of the study, policy considerations that are posed by the study, and to grasp how these results may inform efforts by Metro’s partners. Key elements of the presentation included:

- Analysis of survey responses, which had a total sample size of 6,630 respondents.
- Explanation of housing and neighborhood types used in the survey.
- Results of opinion polling, including:
 - A majority of respondents currently live in a single-family detached home.
 - A strong majority of respondents prefer to live in a single-family detached home.
 - A majority of respondents report that they currently live in a suburban neighborhood.
- Estimates of current neighborhood market shares.
- Analysis of tradeoffs, including:
 - Home sizes.
 - Home prices.
 - Renting vs. home ownership.
 - Commute times.
 - Yard size.
 - Presence of activities and attractions within a walkable distance.

- Relevant policy considerations from the Draft 2014 Urban Growth Report.

Council Discussion:

Council President Hughes inquired about methods that staff recommends for using RPS data in moving forward with their analysis of the UGR, and spoke about using the study in conjunction with analysis of the regional means and ability to afford desired housing and neighborhood types. Councilors inquired about ensuring adequately distributed representation in the survey results, and also about assumptions made by staff in analyzing tradeoffs. Councilors discussed various intricacies of survey design, and made suggestions to enhance the quality of survey results for the next iteration of the RPS. Councilors spoke to the effects of shifting regional demographics on the interpretations of preferences and reactions to various tradeoffs. Councilor Stacey spoke to the application of RPS data in regional concept planning, specifically in terms of designing more “walkable” neighborhoods, and mentioned the importance of developing mechanisms to turn housing and neighborhood style desires into construction activity. Councilor Collette spoke to the importance of maintaining sense of community in neighborhoods, while still maintaining efficient and desired density levels. Councilors Craddick and Collette spoke to the importance of identifying a “middle ground” between traditional single and multi-family housing styles, such as well-planned and strategically located cottage design models. Councilor Chase spoke to the importance of refining and improving the region’s quality of life, so that constituents maintain a wide range of housing choices in the long term. Council President Hughes spoke to the importance of conducting this survey in the lead-up to subsequent Metro growth management decisions, in order to track responses over time and analyze trends.

Following this agenda item, Councilor Dirksen was excused from the meeting at 4:18pm.

3. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATION

Metro Attorney Alison Kean updated the Council on the following items:

- An executive session will be held on Thursday, Sept. 11, to discuss the remand of the urban reserve to the Land Conservation Development Commission (LCDC). Metro will issue a brief to LCDC before the end of the month regarding the scope of the remand.
- Metro’s validation proceeding regarding the Oregon Convention Center Hotel is ongoing in Multnomah County. Metro filed a motion for summary judgment in the case about two weeks ago. The hearing date for the motion has been set for October 9 or 10. Also, the appeal for the case that Metro won in Multnomah County regarding the Oregon Convention Center Hotel case is ongoing. Metro just received their opponent’s appellate brief in this case.
- The Office of the Metro Attorney (OMA) is working on several items pertaining to the Oregon Zoo, including a storm water line easement through the Zoo property, ongoing Zoo public records requests, and negotiating and revising the Oregon Zoo and Oregon Zoo Foundation (OZF) agreement.
- With the Portland’s Centers for the Arts, OMA is working on a renewal for the ground lease with the First Congressional Church.
- OMA is continuing to support the Willamette Falls project, including potential Riverwalk easements, as well as through the Master Plan process. They are also coordinating with Multnomah County about the appropriate land use review for the Oxbow Park improvements, and negotiating on the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) deal with Beaverton regarding the Westgate property.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Harrington inquired about the status of the reserves litigation in federal court. Ms. Kean indicated that both lawsuits are still stayed, for as long as the remand is on.

4. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Collette distributed a new version of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Scenarios Project Key Results, which integrated Council comments from last week's work session, to better convey the benefits of the CSC project.

Councilor Craddick indicated that she and Councilor Stacey would be attending Railvolution in Minneapolis, and will be out of town from Sat., Sept. 20 to Thurs., Sept. 25.

5. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Cvetko', written in a cursive style.

Joel Cvetko, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 9, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	9/11/14	Council Agenda for Sept. 11, 2014	9914cw-01
1.0	Handout	9/9/14	Oregon Transportation Forum: Draft Transportation Funding and Policy Proposal ("Straw Man") for discussion at the September 10, 2014 Stakeholder Meeting	9914cw-02
4.0	Handout	9/9/14	Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project: Key Results	9914cw-03