



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2015  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

**Councilors Present:** Deputy Council President Bob Stacey, Councilors Shirley Craddick, Craig Dirksen, Kathryn Harrington, and Sam Chase

**Councilors Excused:** Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Carlotta Collette

Deputy Council President Bob Stacey 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:

- Ms. Bennett announced that Metro is in the process of recruiting a new director for the Zoo. The recruitment process is trying to attract a diverse group of applicants with the hope of hiring a new director by the summer to have the director ready for the opening of Elephant Lands.
- The first deadline for the Community Planning and Development Grant process is Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> and local jurisdictions are being asked to submit letters of intent.

**2. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUND ALLOCATION POLICY UPDATE**

- Mr. Dan Kaempff, Metro staff, presented to the Metro Council the policy update process for the Regional Flexible Fund Allocation (RFFA) and provided an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).
- As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Portland metropolitan region, Metro will be developing policy guidelines for the next update of the MTIP and RFFA. The MTIP is comprised of transportation policies and distributions of federal funds administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Metro, and transit providers TriMet, and South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART). The MTIP is a federally required program that schedules transportation investments and monitors the implementation of federal policies for the Portland metropolitan region during a four year cycle. It defines the policy objectives for the prioritization of federal transportation discretionary funding for the RFFA.
- Mr. Colin Deverell and Mr. Andy Cotugno, Council office staff, presented for discussion a draft set of principles for the Metro Council to consider that would order to frame and state clearly the Council's desired outcomes for the MTIP and RFFA policy update process. The Council will continue discussion on this topic at its May 5 work session.

***Council Discussion:***

- The Metro Council discussed the development and communication of their expectations for outcomes of the 2018-2021 MTIP and 2019-2021 RFFA policy update process.
- Metro Councilors generally agreed to the initial principles laid out by Council staff, but provided further direction for the follow-up discussion on May 5.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington expressed that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) should be mentioned in the presentation and related to MTIP and RFFA and the funding programs. Councilor Craig Dirksen agreed with Councilor Harrington and noted that projects from the RTP should populate MTIP.
- Councilor Shirley Craddick noted that the region has just spent a significant amount of time and energy developing a Climate Smart strategy and that the principles Council approves should reflect the region's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Councilor Sam Chase commented that the Council, when discussing regional funds, should focus on regional decisions that have already been made.

**3. EQUITABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE WORK PLAN UPDATE**

- Ms. Elissa Gertler, Director of Planning & Development, updated the Council regarding the work plan and partnerships development for the Equitable Housing Initiative.
- The Equitable Housing Initiative is the result of the FY2014-2015 budget amendment of \$200,000 to:
  1. Develop and deploy technical support tools for jurisdictions seeking to eliminate barriers to equitable housing;
  2. Develop and promote local, regional, and statewide policies to support equitable housing;
  3. Develop a long-range strategy for funding affordable housing development and preservation
- Major issues going into 2040 include housing affordability and protecting neighborhoods. This can be seen as households paying more than half their income on housing grew 81% from 2000 to 2012 with central Portland seeing rapidly rising rents. The quality of housing being built is also becoming an issue and there is an increasing need for diverse housing options. In suburban areas transportation options are limited and many low income residents are moving out into the suburbs as rent and housing costs increase in the central city. Resident's preference and choice are becoming major dictating factors in the foreseeable housing market.
- Ms. Emily Lieb of Metro described the work plan components and phases, partnership structure for 2015, and the anticipated timeline.

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilors provided feedback on the work plan and expressed how they would like to engage in the Initiative.
- Councilor Craddick pointed out the need for diverse affordable housing options. This is in regards to different income levels of people who are classified as low income. Some low income people will need more support than others. A better definition for what is considered affordable housing should be provided as well as defining what is considered affordable for renting versus ownership.

- Councilor Harrington noted that many jurisdictions outside of the central city of Portland have made progress in their affordable housing initiatives and when compared to the central city of Portland they are at very different places.
- Councilor Craddick spoke about how the east part of the region already has a significant amount of affordable housing. Affordable housing is being built in areas that are far away from jobs with less access to resources like stores, schools and hospitals. Mixed income housing neighborhoods and areas are important to consider as designating certain areas as affordable housing zones can burden certain cities and areas within the Portland region with affordable housing options.
- Councilor Harrington expressed the need to take age friendly housing options into consideration as the Portland region has a large aging population and many elderly are also low income.
- Councilor Harrington suggested describing the risk of not planning for affordable and diverse housing options. These risks may change the demographics and population of the homeless community, increase dependence on certain city and county services and have other costs if nothing is done to plan for a more equitable and affordable future.

#### **4. REALLOCATION OF TRANSIT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

- Ms. Malu Wilkinson, Metro staff, provided a review of the resolution to reallocate unspent transit project development funds from the terminated Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project to regional HCT priority projects that are moving forward.

#### ***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Craddick inquired if the Willamette Shoreline Project funding is going to be used for capital improvements as the community in that region has an interest in planning a trail.
  - Mr. Alan Lehto of TriMet answered that the funds cannot be used for planning and constructing a trail, but there are other needs for the Willamette shoreline.

#### **5. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

- Ms. Bennett discussed important senate bills in the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session with Councilors. The discussion included updates on the status of various bills that would impact Metro including Oregon Convention Center Hotel SB 927, and land use bills SB 3211 and 3221.
- Councilor Dirksen reminded Council that the annual Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) trip to Washington D.C. will be happening April 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and that a final agenda and itinerary are being prepared.
- Councilor Craddick attended a Travel Portland meeting and announced that travel into Portland is up and hotels, events and restaurants are doing well. The International Trails Symposium will be in Portland on May 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

Seeing no further business, Deputy Council President Bob Stacey adjourned the Council work session at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Botond Kovacs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APR. 14, 2015**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	04/14/15	METRO COUNCIL 2015 MTIP/RFFA UPDATE CORE PRINCIPLES	041415cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	04/14/15	Position on Federal transportation Policy and Funding (part 1)	041415cw-02
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	04/14/15	Position on Federal transportation Policy and Funding (part 2)	041415cw-03
<b>3.0</b>	Handout	04/14/15	Equitable Housing Initiative Work Plan, 2015-2016	041415cw-04
<b>4.0</b>	Handout	04/14/15	For the Purpose of Reallocating Unspent Transit Project Development Funds on Current Regional Priority Projects	041415cw-05