

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING	)	RESOLUTION NO. 95-2085
A PROCESS FOR CONFERRING SCHOLAR-	)	
SHIPS FOR THE METRO ELECTRONIC	)	Introduced by Councilor Susan McLain
BULLETIN BOARD PILOT PROJECT	)	Council Liaison to the Metro
PRESENTED BY THE METRO COMMITTEE	)	Committee for Citizen Involvement
FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT	)	

WHEREAS, The Metro Council adopted the agency's Budget for Fiscal Year 1994-95 on June 30, 1994; and

WHEREAS, The budget added funding for electronic bulletin board access, as recommended by the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement to help advertise and communicate to the citizens of the region on Metro activities; and

WHEREAS, The pilot project has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, The budget amount for this project includes \$1,750 for the provision of scholarships to purchase accounts for community organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement Work Group for the Metro Electronic Bulletin Board Pilot Project has developed a process whereby these accounts may be awarded; and

WHEREAS, This selection process for awarding scholarships to the Metro Electronic Bulletin Board Pilot Project is shown in Attachment A; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metro Council accepts the process for awarding scholarships to the Metro Electronic Bulletin Board Pilot Project as identified in Exhibit A attached to this resolution.

ADOPTED BY THE METRO COUNCIL this 2 day of Feb., 1995.

  
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J. Ruth McFarland, Presiding Officer

EXHIBIT A  
METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (METRO CCI)  
PROCESS FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO THE METRO ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD PILOT PROJECT

January 23, 1995

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Funding has been included in the budget amount for the Metro Electronic Bulletin Board Pilot Project for 50 scholarship accounts. Ed-Net charges each user maintaining an account on the system \$35 per year. A paid account allows the user to sign on under his or her own name and to send electronic mail to others on the system. All of the Metro documents and public debate areas are available free to anyone who signs on to the system as a guest.

ALLOCATION

If the total costs of the requests exceed the amount budgeted, the list will be reduced by filling requests in the following order:

1. Internal to Metro -- two: one for the consultant and one for the computer operator.
2. Libraries -- twelve: initially. As additional public terminals are identified, this number may be revised.
3. Neighborhood associations and citizen participation organizations as recommended by the program coordinators from Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington County Citizen Involvement Committees, and the Director of the Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA) of the City of Portland -- twenty four: preliminary estimate. Immediately: one per county, ONA and the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (Chair), then others as we have specific details.

EVALUATION -- AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN EVALUATION

Any organization receiving a scholarship will be required to participate in the evaluation process, as well as provide feedback during the pilot program. This process will be minimal, and the same input will be requested from all participants.

**Staff Report**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 95-2085, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A PROCESS FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE METRO ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD (MEBB) PILOT PROJECT, SUBMITTED BY THE MEBB WORK GROUP OF THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (METRO CCI).

Date: January 23, 1995

Presented by: Judy Shioishi

**BACKGROUND --**

Metro is now providing another way to access some of the most requested information from the agency. These materials have been loaded onto an electronic bulletin board on the Oregon Ed-Net Compass system. At no cost, nearly everyone in the community can connect to this resource and use valuable information on planning in the Metro Region. Material available includes introductory information from the Recycling Information Center, the Metro Washington Park Zoo, and Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces events and activities.

This information can be accessed through the Multnomah County Library's dial-up line at 227-3962 (you need to have a modem to communicate between your computer and the electronic system) or dial direct to Oregon Ed-Net's Compass at 245-9270 (log-on as "guest"). In addition many local libraries in the area will have the Metro information on public access terminals in their branches.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION IN THIS MATTER:**

The Metro Council approved \$14,500 for Fiscal Year 1994-95 to fund a pilot project for this program. The work group from the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement forwarded a brief overview of the project in March of 1994, supporting approval of the pilot project. A copy of this information is included with this Staff Report and marked: Attachment A. Some of the benefits outlined in this material include: the low cost start-up and minimal maintenance, utilization of pre-existing material, and the creation of a central database. In addition to Metro gaining these benefits, the citizens of the region gain convenient access to Metro information, removal of barriers from those traditionally underrepresented in the planning process, access by wide cross section of citizenry and the potential exists to hold moderated forums for additional public comment and input into the Metro planning process.

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY TO DATE:**

The work group from the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement on the Metro Electronic Bulletin Board Project has been meeting for nearly two years. The group originally formed around their vision to provide expanded public access to various documents and publications available from Metro. The Multnomah County Library has been active from the start in assisting with the planning and implementation of the program and integrating the material into the Multnomah County Library's dial-up line. Access is available through public terminals located in various branches or through a direct dial linkage from an individual's home or office. The Washington and Clackamas County libraries have also participated in the project development and have agreed to have the information accessible on their public terminals.

Additionally, the work group has forwarded draft material for the development of a fact-sheet and a guide for the libraries to assist them in establishing access in the branches that are set up as public access terminal. Finally, and the reason for this resolution, the work group has developed a process for allocating scholarships to the libraries, key contacts at Metro and a number of neighborhood associations and community participation organizations which will allow direct electronic mail access. The priorities for allocation and approximate numbers for each category are specified in Exhibit A.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Motion to adopt the resolution.

**METRO ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD PROJECT**  
(Developed by the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement)

March 30, 1994

**INTRODUCTION**

This document summarizes the mission, goals, and projected cost of the proposed Metro Electronic Bulletin Board ("MEBB") Pilot Project prepared for inclusion in Metro's 1994-95 budget. MEBB is a project developed by the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement ("MCCI") designed to explore and implement better communication between citizens and local government through telecommunication technology.

For the 1994-95 budget year, we propose that Metro undertake a pilot project to explore the feasibility and means of achieving the MEBB project goals discussed below.

**PROJECT MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the MEBB Project is to help citizens in the Portland metropolitan area communicate with and participate in local government, improve communication between government entities, citizen involvement groups and the general public through the use of computer and telecommunications technologies; and to do so in a cost-effective manner.

**GOALS**

In the near term, this mission will be pursued by focusing on the following goals:

Goal 1. Provide people with convenient access to local government information, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, through local dial-up connections. This information will include:

- a) Announcements of upcoming government and other related events;
- b) A library of commonly used government documents, such as planning ordinances and resolutions; and
- c) A directory of regional government official's public mailing addresses and phone numbers.

Goal 2. Enhance public access to this information through terminals at public libraries and other locations.

Goal 3. Provide an electronic forum to facilitate discussions between community members on public policy issues.

Goal 4. Facilitate the use of the MEBB system through public education.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

For the 1994-95 pilot project, we propose putting a library and a conference on the Compass network maintained by Oregon Ed-NET, a state agency. Compass, one of the several information networks ED-NET operates, is essentially a bulletin board service (BBS) running on two SUN workstations, one in Salem and the other in La Grande. There is local call access to the system. In addition, it is anticipated that free access to the MEBB will be available from public access terminals in libraries and other public places.

The documents available on the MEBB during the pilot project will include the following:

1. Metro Council agendas:
2. Summary of Metro Council and committee minutes.
3. Metro calendar of events, including cable cast schedule for Council meetings.
4. Recycling/garbage information.
5. List of Trips to Nature events.
6. Calendar of events for the Performing Arts Center and the Zoo.
7. Metro job openings.
8. Metro Charter and selected portions of Metro code.
9. Directory of regional government officials.

A projected budget for the proposed pilot project follows.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1994-95 PILOT PROJECT

### Metro Budget

1. Establish procedures and setup MEBB; evaluate project success (Consultant, MEBB Committee, Metro Information Services Dept.) 240 hrs @ \$25/hr	\$ 6,000
2. Scholarships/partial payments to purchase Compass accounts for community organizations, 50 accounts @ \$35 each	1,750
3. Develop reports (Compass), 50 hrs @ \$30/hr	1,500
4. Memory requirements (> 100K)	400
5. Weekly maintenance of documents (5 mos-1 day/wk)	4,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$14,450</u>

### Inkind Contributions

1. Libraries provide public access terminals	\$30,000
2. ED-NET provides Compass accounts for MEBB Committee	\$245
3. MEBB Committee develops educational materials	150 hrs

The proposed budget for the pilot project includes money to hire a consultant to establish procedures and set up the MEBB. The budget also includes money to be paid to ED-NET to develop reports and pay for additional memory required to store electronic documents. ED-NET charges each user maintaining an account on the system \$35 per year. A paid account allows the user to sign on under his or her own name and to send email to others on the system. The proposed budget includes money to be used as scholarships and partial payments to help purchase some accounts for community organizations. Access to documents and public debate areas will be available free to anyone who signs on to the system as a guest.

## BENEFITS OF PROPOSED MEBB PROJECT

### Benefits to Metro

- Meets metro's mandate for public notification and involvement in a low-cost format.
- Uses information already being produced by Metro.
- Information can be provided in a timely manner and is easily modifiable.
- Pilot project will run on an existing system operated by Oregon ED-NET. Metro does not need to buy hardware or software or operate system.
- Pilot project is small and "portable" and can be integrated into a different system later, if advantageous.
- Requires minimal training for existing Metro staff for later support of system.
- Creates central database for Metro and eliminates duplication of staff tasks.
- Creates a record of public notification and comment.
- The use of Compass by other government agencies and community groups provides opportunities for partnership and collaboration region wide.
- Provides opportunity to use cutting-edge technology to lead the region into the 21st Century.

### Benefits to Citizens

- Provides convenient access to Metro information, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, through local dial-up connections from homes and businesses and public access terminals in locations such as libraries.
- Can remove barriers (e.g., time and travel restrictions, physical barriers to the disabled) from those traditionally underrepresented in the planning process.
- Reaches wide cross-section of citizenry—access is not limited to people on Metro mailing lists.
- Provides convenient, "one-stop shopping" for government information.
- Citizens can select the documents they need to review and ignore extraneous information (can minimize "junk mail").
- Special electronic forums provide additional opportunities for public comment and input into Metro planning process (e.g., North-South Corridor planning).