



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Craig Dirksen, Bob Stacey, Shirley Craddick, Sam Chase, Carlotta Collette, and Kathryn Harrington

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 3:15 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett discussed personnel changes in the offices of the Council and the Chief Operating Officer.

2. SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Malu Wilkinson and Mr. Chris Ford, Metro staff, presented the Southwest Corridor Plan Update. Ms. Wilkinson provided a brief background on the project and discussed the challenges and opportunities unique to the Southwest Corridor, including high travel demand, growth in residents and jobs, traffic congestion, a lack of safe infrastructure, and insufficient transit capacity. Ms. Wilkinson noted that the Southwest Corridor has been identified as one of the region's top priorities for transportation investments, and reviewed the project's progress and timeline. Ms. Wilkinson discussed the regional benefits of investing in a high capacity transit (HCT) system in the Southwest Corridor, and shared the HCT preferred alternative timeline. Mr. Ford shared the staff recommendation to select light rail transit (LRT) as the preferred high capacity transit mode, and compared the benefits of LRT in the Southwest Corridor to those of bus rapid transit (BRT), including consideration of capital costs, capacity for long-term ridership growth, integration with the current system, and public input. He also noted the staff recommendation to remove the light rail tunnel to the Portland Community College (PCC) Sylvania campus from consideration, discussed several alternatives for improving connectivity to the campus, and highlighted important upcoming dates and next steps.

Council Discussion:

Councilors spoke to the importance of making transit faster and more convenient than driving, and asked clarifying questions about the proposed HCT alignment. Councilor Harrington discussed the land use potential of the Tigard Triangle and spoke to the importance of developing parking lots or garages to facilitate the use of HCT. Councilor Collette noted several activity and shopping centers in the corridor that are not directly served by the proposed alignment and inquired about the plan to improve connectivity to those centers. Councilor Dirksen recalled the City of Tigard's interest in HCT as a part of their plan to renovate the town center. Councilor Craddick discussed the potential HCT alignment along either I-5 or Barbur Boulevard and advised aligning to Barbur Boulevard in order to better serve neighborhoods and shopping centers. Councilor Stacey noted Barbur Boulevard's design as a civic corridor with mixed use zoning. Councilor Chase spoke to the importance of developing dense infrastructure to reduce the need for vehicles, and discussed the connection between affordable housing and transit. Council President Hughes recalled his experience with the MAX Blue Line as mayor of Hillsboro, highlighted the benefits of LRT for communities, and noted the potential of the Southwest Corridor Plan.

3. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Harrington noted her upcoming vacation, Council President Hughes discussed the Oregon Zoo Foundation Education Fundraiser, and Councilor Dirksen announced his candidate forum for Citizen Participation Organizations in Washington County.

4. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyra Schneider, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2016

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	PowerPoint	04/21/2016	Southwest Corridor Plan Update PowerPoint	042116cw-01