

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**AGENDA REVISED 01/17/17**

**Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber**

**Council work session**

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**2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call**

**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 2:01 p.m.

**2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, stated that interviews for Visitor Venues general- manager position had been completed. She explained that final interview sessions would take place on February 3 and 10, 2017. Ms. Bennett suggested that at least two councilors were needed for final interviews. She thanked Metro security staff who made sure that the building was operational and safe during the inclement weather. She noted that operations were active at the Portland Expo Center and added that the Expo Center opened on time though attendance was down due to weather conditions. She mentioned that a video posted by the Oregon Zoo of animals playing in the snow had garnered 13 million views and was been picked up by national news. Ms. Bennett continued to state that Oxbow Regional Park had reopened, however other regional parks remained closed. Ms. Bennett stated that Metro's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team would host a cultural food day event on January 26 from 12-1 p.m. She noted that the event would showcase how food can represent diverse cultures and would also commemorate the life of the late Mr. Bill Tolbert, Metro's first diversity program manager.

**Work Session Topics:**

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2:10 2017 State Legislative Agenda: Part Three

Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro's Regional Affairs Manager, stated that the item was the third of three work session discussions focused on Metro's legislative agenda for the upcoming state legislative session. Mr. Shaw shared proposed legislative agendas for the following topics:

**Land Use:**

Mr. Shaw described bills that had been introduced in the 2017 Legislative Session. He explained that House Bill 2095 was the only bill that was recommended by staff for Metro to support. House Bill 2095 involved expanding the urban growth boundary by a metropolitan service district if such action was warranted. Mr. Shaw states that the bill would also allow a metropolitan service districts to revise demonstrations of buildable lands, though only under certain circumstances. Mr. Shaw informed the Metro Council that Metro staff recommended opposing or continuing to analyze the remaining land use bills. He noted that recommended opposition for particular measures or legislation was a result of possible implications for Metro's urban growth management process and land use efficiency in the Portland metropolitan region.

**Housing:**

Mr. Shaw announced that Metro's two most important legislative components to housing solutions were gaining more authority in implementing and exercising the Construction Excise Tax (CET), and developing legislation in association with the Oregon Housing Alliance. Mr. Shaw indicated that Senate Bill 1533 included permanent preemption on the CET tax rate and excluded Metro from levying a similar tax in the region. Because of this, Mr. Shaw recommended that Metro should seek a relief on tax such as a higher tax rate or access to CET tax authority. Mr. Shaw noted that the Oregon Housing Alliance would provide a legislative framework that would provide renters protection against no-cause evictions as well as protection against

dramatic rent increases. Mr. Shaw briefed Council that future legislative proposals addressing the housing issue would involve four strategies in order to protect people and communities, along with generating a stable housing market. Mr. Shaw added that Metro and the City of Portland also recommended specific comments on topics such as: increases in housing development, providing relief to renters who struggle to pay rent (due to rent increases), and market instability. Mr. Shaw noted that local involvement for rent stabilization and control would determine the success of affordable housing legislation.

**Transportation:**

Mr. Shaw presented the general concerns that Oregon citizens had according to the Transportation Vision Panel: maintaining the transportation system, fixing congestion due to bottleneck areas in Portland, adequate transit in rural and urban areas, and seismic resiliency in roads, bridges and port infrastructure. Mr. Shaw explained that during February 2017, a Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Perseveration and Modernization would break into four groups to each focus on one of the four concerns. He noted that Metro Councilors along with other Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) members could participate by providing assistance and comments on the developments of the Joint Committee, in order to formulate a well rounded project package. Mr. Shaw noted that, the American Automobile Association (AAA) of Oregon, as well as other freight and trucker interest groups would support the measure only if reasonable measures for revenue sources were made.

Mr. Noah Siegel, Metro Policy Advisor, clarified that Metro would need to contribute \$40-60 million in order to bond for capital construction. Ideally, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the State of Oregon would cover the total \$1 billion dollar cost of the transportation project; however, Metro would seek to support \$500 million of that proposed transportation budget. Mr. Siegel stated that congestion would be addressed through a multi-modal

response that would focus on statewide investments for active transportation along with transit improvement. He noted that in order to control emissions and thus improve air quality, one mode of improving environmental quality was the reduction of diesel; he stated that the initiative was supported by both Metro and JPACT. Mr. Siegel recommended that a core element of the transportation legislation focus on avoiding restrictions on revenue raising authority and pre-emptions that could hinder flexibility for transport operations and funding measures at the local level. He stated that support for ongoing statewide investment for transit operations was recommended, and also a major tool for achieving Metro's Climate Smart Strategy mandates. Mr. Siegel reiterated a multi-modal approach to solving transportation issues and mentioned several other non-road projects that would help address freight mobility.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Stacey clarified that SB 258 was a general statute that would apply to the State of Oregon and not the metropolitan region alone. Councilors agreed that the bill was not the manner by which local land use changes should be directed. Councilor Harrington noted that she felt the rural-industrial designation should require that industrial activities be related to rural business practices. Councilor Harrington also voiced concern that SB 418 would impose additional responsibility on the understaffed Department of Land Conservation and Development, (DLCD). Councilor Stacey noted that he aimed to persuade the Oregon Senate to recognize the regional need for resources to develop affordable housing and maintain a strong housing market in the metropolitan region. Councilor Craddick agreed that the development of legislation should not be rushed; rather, the focus should be on ensuring future packages will include Metro's recommendations. Councilor Chase expressed concerns about how rental control may adversely impact the housing market. Councilor Dirksen emphasized the need to balance tenants' and landlords'

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rights so that there was consistency in housing policy and overall regulation of the housing market.

Councilor Dirksen clarified that the \$500 million project budget signified a minimum annual contribution for transportation related projects. Councilor Harrington requested background on the proposed gas tax. Councilor Craddick asked if the diesel emission reduction strategy would involve reducing diesel particulates or decreasing the amount of diesel consumption regionally. Councilor Harrington expressed her appreciation for the proposed strategies and principles involved with the transportation project. Councilor Craddick asked if there would be an impact on lottery funds for Connect Oregon due to funding for other statewide projects.

### **3:10 Councilor Communication**

Councilor Dirksen requested that the information provided by Metro staff regarding the transportation legislation address specific needs and assign dollar value to top priorities in order to clarify the objective of the package and specific project elements. Councilor Dirksen also noted that Metro's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) voted to support the Cleveland Street project over the Division bus rapid transit project in the next round of Regional Flexible Fund Allocation. Councilor Stacey thanked Councilor Craddick for her leadership and vision during the most recent Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting. Councilor Collette introduced Willamette Falls Locks Commission legislation and indicated plans for funding. She noted that Metro had commissioned lobbyists to support the legislation at the Oregon Legislature. Councilor Collette also announced that the Transit-Oriented Development Program, TODP, had approved funding for two affordable housing projects. Councilors discussed the two projects. Council President Hughes announced the passing of John E. Cook, former mayor of the City of Tigard. The Metro Council gave their condolences to the Tigard community and

the Cook family.

**3:30 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amaanjit Singh". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amaanjit Singh, Council Policy Assistant



**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2017**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	1/19/2017	Metro Council 2017 Legislative Principles	011917cw-1
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	1/19/2017	2017 Regional Transportation Agenda: Recommendations	011917cw-2
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	1/19/2017	Staff Report	011917cw-3
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	1/19/2017	Metro 2017 Legislative Update	011917cw-4
<b>2.0</b>	PowerPoint	1/19/2017	JPACT Legislation Agenda	011917cw-5