



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2017

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Chase

Carlotta Collette

Denny Doyle (*1st Vice Chair*)

Jeff Gudman

Kathryn Harrington

Jerry Hinton

Gordon Hovies

Craig Prosser

Ty Stober

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jennifer Donnelly

John Griffiths

Anthony Martin

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Betty Dominguez

Amanda Fritz

Mark Gamba (*Chair*)

Craig Prosser

AFFILIATION

Metro Council

Metro Council

City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County

City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County

Metro Council

City of Gresham

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Special Districts in Washington County

TriMet

City of Vancouver

AFFILIATION

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Special Districts in Washington County

City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County

AFFILIATION

Citizen of Clackamas County

City of Portland

City of Milwaukie, Other Cities in Clackamas County

TriMet

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Barber, Gretchen Buehner, Eric Hesse

STAFF: Elissa Gertler, Ernest Hayes, Miranda Mishan, Nellie Papsdorf, Megan Gibb, Lisa Miles, Rebecca Hamilton, Roger Alfred

1. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC 1st Vice Chair Denny Doyle called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

- *There was none.*

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

- Councilor Sam Chase discussed the expanded bond oversight committee which provides accountability for Metro. He explained that the committee had been expanded to include capital projects.
- Councilor Chase provided an update on the groundbreaking for the new Hyatt Regency Hotel, taking place on July 14th, 2017 at 10 a.m., north for the convention center MAX station.
- Councilor Jeff Gudman asked about the Status of the transportation package, Councilor Chase deferred to Ms. Elissa Gertler.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington mentioned that Governor Brown made a statement saying she thought that it would b done soon. Councilor Gudman asked about the status of the three big projects in the package, including the Rose Quarter, 205, and 217. Councilor Colette responded, saying 217 was in, and the other two were in for possible design and engineering.

4. MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Carlotta Collette updated the committee on the Stafford Urban Reserves five party agreement which was signed that day. Councilor Harrington emphasized the significance of the resolution of this issue.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- **Consideration of May 10, 2017 Minutes**
- **Consideration of June 14, 2017 Minutes**
- *No quorum, consent agenda was not adopted*

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Delivering High Road Transportation Infrastructure

1st Vice Chair Doyle discussed the purpose of the Regional Snapshot Speaker Series. He discussed some of the issues the region will face as the next round of RTP planning approaches. 1st Vice Chair Doyle explained that the RTP planning process was starting within the context of rising congestion and increasing market pressure on housing, and that MPAC wanted to explore how “taking the high road” would lead to a better quality of life. He introduced Ms. Dena Belzer from Strategic Economics.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Ms. Belzer discussed the definition of infrastructure, and it’s relevance with regard to an RTP. She explained the importance of looking at infrastructure as a whole system rather than in smaller parts. Ms. Belzer described the big picture approach to infrastructure as the “high road” approach, and explained the drawbacks of the typical “low road” approach. She explained that the high road approach is intended to add more community and environmental benefits based on a set of values.

Ms. Belzer explained specific differences between the two approaches to infrastructure, and noted that high road infrastructure expects each project to deliver benefits in four important areas, including environmental impacts, resiliency, socioeconomic factors, and governance and community accountability.

Ms. Belzer elaborated on the process of high road infrastructure, saying that when it comes to high road infrastructure, it is about the process rather than the tools or money. She added that it requires setting standards, defining the project, and finding funding. Ms. Belzer emphasized that the process of high road infrastructure is not linear, and there are not definite steps.

Ms. Belzer highlighted ways to find funding for high road infrastructure, noting that there no magic source of funding exists, and it is necessary to redefine the project to find different sources of funding. She added that there were ways to use overlapping goals and objectives of different projects in order to get funding. Ms. Belzer recommended using the movement of socially responsible investment to attract investors, because of the amplified impact of high road infrastructure.

Ms. Belzer described the multiple, iterative steps to “taking the high road” with regard to infrastructure. She highlighted the importance of these steps as non-linear. She discussed the importance of focusing on establishing a community framework, identifying HR project pipelines, and indentifying and screening funding sources. Ms. Belzer expressed the importance of setting performance standards and community driven outcomes, and cautioned against getting caught up in the long term planning aspects, and encouraged focusing on planning for who is on the ground today as opposed to in the future. She emphasized the importance of this step in terms of equity, recommending focusing on the project definition in order to avoid disconnect between who is being planned for and who is living in spaces today.

Ms. Belzer explained why standards are critical to the conversation about infrastructure. She highlighted the need for investors to be able to evaluate the project, and that standards were helpful with providing a benchmark against which the project was evaluated. Ms. Belzer expressed the importance of clarity on performance goals, because it is easy to mix-up language. She showed this with the example of “equity” and how it meant something different to different participants in the planning process.

Ms. Belzer spoke to the way that taking the high road gets us to take on the whole framework. She noted that persevering to make the numbers work is neither cheap nor easy, but redefining the project makes it easier. Ms. Belzer added that it was important to keep all partners at the table, and that it was not a one-party solution. She emphasized the need to keep the community in the loop and avoid the distance between planning and communities, and the need to plan for today rather than the future.

Member discussion included:

- Councilor Kathryn Harrington referred to the Southwest Corridor project in the region and asked Ms. Elissa Gertler how the ‘high-road’ is a part of Metro’s strategy for planning infrastructure. Ms. Gertler responded, saying that a lot of the planning process is being informed by the kind of work that Ms. Belzer does and the strategies she proposed. She added that a pilot effort was made on some of the projects in the RTP. Ms. Belzer expressed the importance of thinking about of thinking ahead then working backwards.

- Ms. Carrie MacLaren mentioned that the regional solutions center in the governor's office was looking at a new platform which allowed projects to be put in to a platform that investors and providers could see so they looked for project opportunities next to other projects being done in the locality, so that the process became more collaborative. She added that if it fit in to what Metro is doing she would work to bring it back and bring these ideas to MPAC. Ms. Belzer responded, and said that the high-road approach has implemented processes like these and that they have worked well.
- Mr. Ty Stober discussed a high-road project in Minneapolis and the foundation led efforts toward infrastructure in the twin cities. He added that he was looking forward to using the tools presented by Ms. Belzer to integrate more voices into the planning process. Ms. Belzer elaborated on the Minneapolis example, and explained that decisions were made in a coordinated way with regard to investments, and that people in the cities were satisfied.
- Councilor Carlotta Collette asked how the business community played into the 'high road' model. Ms. Belzer acknowledged the difficulty of this issue, and discussed the importance of setting standards that show specific outcomes so that investors know what they're getting out of their investment. She added that thinking about projects that are worth investing in is something that she had been working on, and thinking about investment was still in progress.
- Councilor Gudman suggested that the impact on private investors was being overemphasized because private investors would not be interested unless they would receive a return on the investment and their money back through user fees like tolling. Ms. Belzer noted the importance of differentiating between funding and financing.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- **Consideration of May 10, 2017 Minutes**
- **Consideration of June 14, 2017 Minutes**

MOTION: Councilor Jeff Gudman moved and Mr. Jerry Hinton seconded to adopt the consent agenda.

Member discussion included:

- Mr. Gordon Hovies asked if the changes to the 5/10/2017 MPAC minutes had been made. Ms. Miranda Mishan confirmed that the changes had been made.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

ADJOURN

MPAC 1st Vice Chair Denny Doyle adjourned the meeting at 6:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Miranda Mishan
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2017

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
6.1	Presentation	6/28/2017	PowerPoint presentation on high road infrastructure	062817m-01