

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2017

3:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

3:00 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, shared that Policy Assistants, Ms. Taylor Unterberg and Mr. Amaanjit Singh, would present a report on Granicus. Granicus was an online platform that enables coordination of meeting materials, along with providing an opportunity for the public to connect with those materials via an online Granicus calendar. Ms. Unterberg shared that in September 2016, the Council began to phase in its use of Granicus; on July 1, 2017, this transition was complete with the implementation of the Granicus calendar. Mr. Singh expressed that the Granicus report involved analyzing the Council's paper usage and spending (on print orders from Portland Printing and Distribution) along with examining public interaction with the Granicus calendar for the first six months of 2015, 2016, and 2017. Ms. Unterberg conveyed that in comparison to 2017, there was an 83% and 80% reduction in paper printing for 2016 and 2015 respectively. In regard to spending, and also comparing 2017 with 2016 and 2015, there was an 88% and 74% decrease respectively. According to Mr. Singh, there were 3,116 unique visitors on the Granicus calendar between January-June 2017. Additionally, he shared that there were 19,788 page views in the same time frame. Ms. Unterberg and Mr. Singh thanked Council for being flexible during the implementation and adoption phase of Granicus. Mr. Singh and Ms. Unterberg also thanked Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator, for her guidance and support for the Granicus report. Councilor Harrington requested that legistar be made more user friendly on the Ipads. Councilor Chase asked about the next steps for Granicus. Mr. Singh replied that making the Granicus calendar more user friendly was a priority.

Work Session Topics:

3:10 2018 Legislative Issues Part Two

Mr. Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager, stated that the work session presentation would be an attempt to highlight major legislative topics for the 2018 legislative session. The first issue Mr. Tucker discussed was the document recording fee. He shared that in 2009, the Oregon Legislature enacted a \$15 document recording fee that would fund affordable housing. In 2013, the fee was increased to \$20. According to Mr. Tucker, California had recently enacted a \$75 document recording fee and Oregon legislators would consider increasing the fee from \$20 to \$75. This would potentially increase revenues from approximately \$28 million to \$105 million per biennium; the increased revenue would be dedicated to the Emergency Housing Account, Home Ownership Program, and the General Housing Account Program. Mr. Tucker recommended that the Council support the proposed legislation to increase the document recording fee in order to increase state resources for addressing homelessness, homeownership, and housing affordability.

To provide context for urban and rural reserve changes initiated by House Bill 4078 (HB 4078), Mr. Tucker shared a map of the Washington County region. The map showcased the new land designations, along with information on what the designations were before HB 4078 (passed in 2014). Mr. Tucker recalled that HB 4078 validated the urban growth boundary, and the Washington County urban and rural reserves adopted by Metro. Mr. Tucker recounted adopted principle of Metro: establish a process and policy framework for local land use decisions and affirm the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters. Thus, Mr. Tucker recommended that the Council oppose any effort to legislatively change the designation of land that was previously designated through the regular reserves process or through the Oregon Legislature i.e. House Bill 4078. Mr. Tucker further explained that passage of new legislation-

that would redraw the reserves map- would essentially undermine Metro's land use process. Additionally, Mr. Tucker noted that potential land use legislation for 2018 would involve the City of Hillsboro pursuing a bill that would reverse a key element of HB 2048, by redesignating approximately 1700 acres of land (adjacent to Hillsboro) from rural reserve to urban reserve.

When discussing brownfields tax credit, Mr. Tucker shared that the credits would provide incentives for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties. He added that thousands of properties around Oregon were vacant or underutilized because of perceived environmental conditions; these properties could be redeveloped in order to increase the amount of urban infrastructure within the urban growth boundary. Mr. Tucker briefly recalled that Metro led the creation of the Brownfields Coalition, which was still active in advancing the tax credit legislation since 2015. Additionally, Mr. Tucker explained that the cleanup and redevelopment would lead to job creation and increased tax revenues at the local and state levels.

Moreover, the tax credits would usher environmental and social benefits via the elimination of contaminated areas. Mr. Tucker acknowledged that reports produced by Metro and other agencies showcased that the brownfields tax credit would likely generate positive financial return on public investments, within five years. Thus, Mr. Tucker recommended that the Council support brownfields tax credit legislation.

Mr. Tucker briefly explained Qualification-Based Selection (QBS): a procurement process for the selection of firms providing certain professional services for public projects. Essentially, an agency would post a Request for Qualification and select a firm. After the selection has been made and accepted, the agency would negotiate a price for the service with the respective firm. If an agreement cannot be reached, the agency would move onto the next qualified firm and negotiate again.

In regard to the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC), Mr. Tucker reported that the commission had requested an increase to its budget-from \$280,000 to \$410,000- and increase the growth factor to 5%. Mr. Tucker highlighted that the TSCC conducted substantive financial reviews of the budgets of all local governments within Multnomah County, including Metro. Mr. Tucker recommended that the Council support legislation to increase the TSCC's budget cap and growth factor.

The final topic discussed by Mr. Tucker involved climate legislation, particularly relating to transportation and solid waste. Under a cap and trade program (in reference to transportation operations), Mr. Tucker explained that proceeds from greenhouse gas emissions allowances purchased by suppliers of transportation fuel would be dedicated to expenditures within the road right-of-way. Also following the cap and trade scheme, solid waste operations-such as landfills-would require allowances to be obtained through auctions. However, Mr. Tucker did acknowledge that California's cap and trade program exempted the solid waste industry, but that was because other regulations had covered emissions from solid waste operations. Also, Mr. Tucker indicated that solid waste may or may not be exempted from the Oregon cap and trade program. Nonetheless, he recommended that the Council support climate legislations, irrespective of whether solid waste was subject to its requirements. Overall, Mr. Tucker explained that the opportunities presented by the cap and trade program would accelerate the implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy, along with introducing incentives to avoid costs through waste reduction and recycling. Though the climate legislation was still in its development stages, Mr. Tucker recommended preliminary support for the measure.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Harrington asked Mr. Tucker about the breakdown of the document recording fee for real estate transactions. Mr. Tucker explained that each primary document would have an associated fee; however, he shared that he would search for additional information before confirming. Councilor Chase communicated his support for the legislation; he wanted funds from the potential revenue to be dedicated to emergency housing. Councilor Stacey reiterated the ideal of having land use decisions remain under the control of local jurisdictions and Metro; he supported the notion of opposing new legislation that would redraw the reserves map in Washington County, and other areas around the region. Councilor Harrington reiterated that HB 4078 complicated-and potentially undermined- the local participatory process for land use decision making in the metropolitan region. Councilor Stacey wanted to clarify whether the production of greenhouse gases from utility operations would be a part of the cap and trade program. Mr. Tucker was unsure and would update the Council once he had more information. Councilor Chase inquired upon the constitutional amendment that would allow funds from a general obligation bond to be used for affordable housing. Mr. Tucker explained that Metro staff were still working on developing amendment for the general obligation bond, and polling would be released in order to gauge support for the bond.

4:10 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:24 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,



Amaanjit Singh, Council Policy Assistant

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

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	12/14/17	2017 Granicus Report	121417cw-01
2.1	Handout	12/14/17	HB 4078 Reserves and Urban Growth Boundary Washington County Area	121417cw-02