

**METRO
CHARTER
COMMITTEE**

P.O. Box 9236 • Portland • Oregon 97207
Phone 503-273-5570 • Fax 503-273-5554

September 27, 1991

TO: Charter Committee members

FROM: Hardy Myers

At the September 26 meeting I indicated we would probably schedule our October 3 meeting in Washington County. I had forgotten that I am scheduled to meet with out-of-state attorneys all day on October 3 and will probably need to work with them until just before our Committee meets. For that reason, and with apologies to you for making a change on the basis of my individual needs, I asked Janet to set our October 3 meeting at Metro. Our next two meetings after then will be in Washington and Clackamas Counties.

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DATE: December 3

TO: Mary Tobias

FAX NO: 624-0641

FROM: Janet Whitfield

SUBJECT: Lane Council of Governments

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 2

COMMENTS: The other day, you said you would like more information about the Lane Council of Governments. This afternoon, I had a lengthy telephone conversation with George Kloepfel, who is their executive director.

Lane County has had some form of regional government since 1945. The current LCOG does not have any legislative powers and only coordinates decisions. It has no authority, however, George said it is that lack of authority that seems to make his staff more credible, and he believes they are listened to more readily. Having said that, the LCOG does have some authority by their Federal mandate to coordinate regional transportation planning.

The LCOG is a regional government that crosses a mountain range, since it encompasses all of Lane County, from Springfield to Florence. The Council has 22 voting members, who are either mayors or other elected local government representatives. The membership includes the county, cities, a few special districts, and the largest school district. They have always used an equal voting status among all the members, however, their "charter" allows for a weighted-by-population vote upon request, which has never been exercised. The presiding officer is elected from among the members. Their annual budget is \$8.4 million, a majority of it coming from federal and state grants. About \$200,000 comes from local dues.

Planning is the LCOG's main responsibility. In the past it

has contracted with smaller cities to provide them technical assistance writing their comprehensive plans and now provides assistance with periodic review. In the metropolitan Eugene/Springfield area the LCOG negotiates and facilitates their Metro General Plan, which I didn't realize they had. If you would like me to check into this further, in relation to Frank's proposal, I'll be glad to. In a slight diversion, I asked George if there is any pressure to get Eugene and Springfield to combine. He said the "Springene" idea comes up often, but the disgruntlement it creates detracts from the progress they can make by looking at possible areas of consolidation. Already they share telecommunications and ambulance service. And there are three school districts in the metropolitan area that don't seem to adhere to city boundaries.

I asked if the area on the Coast ever felt neglected. George said the LCOG staff goes out of its way to provide them with support, however, in the past there was talk of seceding into a McCall County.

On consolidation lines, the LCOG does spend considerable time negotiating intergovernmental agreements. It also provides staff for the Lane County Boundary Commission (still appointed by the Governor), operates a multi-jurisdictional telephone service for local government offices, provides GIS data, and serves as the Area Agency for the Aging. In this last role they run a central kitchen and send food out to 13 nutrition sites.

If you would like me to get you information on this or any other subject, please let me know.

BOB SHOEMAKER
MULTNOMAH AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES
DISTRICT 3

REPLY TO ADDRESS INDICATED:

- Senate Chamber
Salem, OR 97310
 4837 West Burnside Road
Portland, OR 97210



OREGON STATE SENATE
SALEM, OREGON
97310

December 20, 1991

To : Members of the Metro Charter Committee
Subject : Metropolitan Government Structure

After last night's meeting I reflected on the discussion we had regarding the pros and cons of commissions being in charge of most if not all Metro functions other than planning. I think we are not as far apart as it appears and thought it might be useful to give you my thoughts in these regards.

Major points on which there is apparent consensus are these:

(1) The Council's primary responsibilities will be to deliberate and decide planning and policy questions.

(2) The principal reason for considering commissions is to relieve the Council from the day-to-day decision making that responsibility for an operating function requires. Our concern was that the Council would spend all of its time on details and busy work; never reaching planning and policy.

(3) A major problem with the use of commissions is the risk of loss of accountability to electors.

(4) The use of commissions to oversee operating functions will be appropriate in many cases.

In talking to Betsy Bergstein near the end of the meeting, I learned that the assigned workload of each member of the Council was to participate in two meetings of the entire

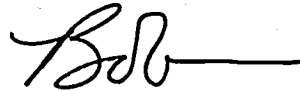
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Members of the Metro Charter Committee
December 20, 1991
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Council each month and to serve on two committees, each of which meets once a month. This translates into about one scheduled meeting each week. The Council and committee agendas that I looked at during our meeting each contemplated a meeting of less than two hours. While I am sure that preparation time is needed in order to function effectively at these meetings and that there are special meetings scheduled from time to time, it does not appear to me that the workload of the Council is excessive. Thus, there should be room for the Council to responsibly address policy and planning matters.

Perhaps the answer to our dilemma is to require in the Charter that Council members give primacy to planning and policy issues. This should lead the Council to schedule at least one-half their full Council meetings to planning and policy deliberations. This requirement of primacy should also lead the Council to appoint intervening commissions as necessary to relieve their workload and permit them to properly perform their assigned duties regarding policy and planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'Bob', followed by a horizontal line.