

Minutes of the Metro Council Planning Committee
December 1, 1994
Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Jon Kvistad (Chair), Richard Devlin, Mike Gates, Susan McLain, Rod Monroe, Terry Moore, Ed Washington

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner (Vice Chair)

Other Councilors Present: Ruth McFarland, Judy Wyers, Roger Buchanan, George Van Bergen

Chair Kvistad called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Consideration of the October 19, 1994 Council Planning Committee Minutes

Motion: Councilor Moore moved to approve the minutes.

Vote: Councilors Moore, McLain, Washington, Monroe, and Kvistad voted aye.

Introduction of Resolutions and Ordinances

John Houser, Senior Council Analyst, noted a committee information item would be forthcoming for the Regional Transportation Plan citizen involvement process. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, noted the request was not a formal resolution.

Motion: Councilor Monroe moved to place the item on a future agenda.

Vote: Councilors Moore, McLain, Monroe, Washington, and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 5/0 and the motion passed.

2. Resolution No. 94-1989, For the Purpose of Determining the South/North Light Rail Transit Alternatives to Advance into the Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Further Study

Mr. Cotugno discussed the resolution as a narrowing process. He stated future actions would be necessary prior to identifying specific alignments. He distributed a summary and discussed the selection process, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. He noted the C-Tran board would also need to approve the resolution.

In response to Councilor Moore, Leon Skiles, Transportation Planning Manager, explained the adoption process by the multiple jurisdictions. He discussed the critical nature of the South/North project, noting it was established in the 2040 Study. He stated the system would assist in accommodating the increased population, carrying approximately 50% of all transit in the region. He stated in the future travel by light rail would be faster than travel by automobile. He noted the system was the equivalent of adding a six lane freeway out of downtown Portland.

Mr. Skiles discussed the desired outcomes of the project. He stated meeting travel demands was the primary purpose. He called for the efficiency of the projections and that cost effectiveness be established in the project. He discussed the competitive nature of vying for Federal funding.

In response to Councilor McLain, Mr. Cotugno noted the local funding was not necessary prior to securing Federal funding. He noted a State transportation funding package was forthcoming and the Council would be reviewing and approving the package. Councilor Monroe noted lobbying for funding

commitments for the light rail would be high priority during the 1995 legislative session. Councilor McLain called for careful planning to ensure commitment. Mr. Skiles noted Washington State was proceeding with their Ballot Measure to secure matching funding.

Mr. Skiles and Mr. Cotugno reviewed the revised staff report, pages five and six, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. Mr. Cotugno discussed some proposed language introduced at JPACT regarding Phase Two, noting it had failed. He noted more than one DEIS was now allowed.

Mr. Skiles discussed the rationale for alignment alternatives selected for further study included in the Tier I Final Recommendation Report, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. In response to Councilor Devlin, Mr. Cotugno noted either Willamette River crossing option would provide an opportunity for a Macadam extension. Councilor Wyers noted the existing language inferred that the Carruthers Bridge crossing appeared to not be equal with the Ross Island Bridge Crossing. Mr. Cotugno stated to date, a Ross Island Bridge study needed to be included in the DEIS and a Carruthers crossing needed more study prior to including it in the DEIS. He stated the decision would be made in April, 1995. Councilor Monroe noted he would meet with City of Portland officials to determine the intent of their action. Councilors Wyers and Moore called for additional language to clarify the intent of the document.

Councilor Washington favored that the language be "tight", noting he did not want to deal with vague language.

Mr. Cotugno noted special language was included to pursue a downtown surface alternative along 5th and 6th Streets (as opposed with a subway or a 10th Street alternative).

3. Councilor Communications

None.

With no further business before the Committee, Chair Kvistad adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee
Committee Recorder

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APPROVED
Date 12-15-94