

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

June 23, 1992
Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Susan McLain (Vice Chair), Roger Buchanan, Ed Washington

Committee Members Absent: Richard Devlin (Chair), Lawrence Bauer

Vice Chair McLain called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 92-1641, Approving a Contract between Metro and Tri-Met for Metro's Participation on the Westside Corridor High Capacity Transit Project

Richard Brandman, Transportation Planning Manager, presented the staff report. He gave a historical overview of the Westside Corridor Project and said the resolution was one of the final pieces of the project to link Metro and Tri-Met's participation on the project. He said Metro was involved with the project from the beginning and has been under contract with Tri-Met to provide technical support in the areas of traffic forecasts, ridership forecasts, and environmental analyses.

Mr. Brandman said the \$200,000 contract will allow Metro to provide technical expertise through completion of the project. He said final negotiations were underway with the Federal government to complete the "full-funding" agreement for the project.

The Committee discussed local funding needed to complete the project. Mr. Brandman said the organizations that benefitted from the Zoo parking station, namely the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), the City of Portland, and the Forestry Center would be requested to contribute to the local match.

The Committee discussed the underground Washington Park Zoo Station. Mr. Brandman said a long term traffic management plan was being established for the Zoo area.

Councilor Buchanan expressed concern about the relationship with Tri-Met. He said there has been some animosity between Tri-Met and Metro related to the merger study. Mr. Brandman said the working relationship at the staff level with Tri-Met was good. He said he would forward Councilor Buchanan's concern to Tri-Met. Councilor McLain said she would like the working relationship to continue to be good throughout the project completion.

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Mr. Brandman said the vehicle registration tax may be used to solve some of the long term funding issues of light rail projects in the region.

Motion: Roger Buchanan moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-1641.

Vote: All those present voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Status Report - Westside Corridor Project

Mr. Brandman gave brief overview of the project. He said construction was anticipated to begin in the spring of 1993.

Mr. Brandman said the Federal government had allocated \$515 million for the project through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). He said this was \$50 million less than expected. He said elements of the project would have to be eliminated due to the shortage of funding. He said some of the deleted items included elimination of a Sylvan Station, reduction of light poles at the Civic Stadium, and a reduction in parking facilities along the route.

At the request of Councilor McFarland, Mr. Brandman clarified financing issues including, the interim borrowing program, use of bonds, and use of a letter of credit or "commercial paper" for the project.

Councilor Washington noted the Zoo Station was proposed to be some 260 feet below surface. Mr. Brandman confirmed that the station was 260 feet below surface. He said the route of the underground tunnel was changed due to results of a geographical study of the ground stability.

Councilor Buchanan expressed a desire to have bicycle parking available along the light rail.

The Committee discussed the low floor cars that would be used to allow level boarding access. The Committee discussed the costs of these cars on the project. Mr. Brandman said the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) expressed some support of the use of the low level cars and may provide some additional funding.

Mr. Brandman noted the 185th/Hillsboro extension was in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stage. He said the EIS would be published in December, 1992, and would be before the Council in April of 1993.

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With no further business before the committee, Vice Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Lee".

Susan Lee
Committee Clerk

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