

METROPOLITAN CITIZENS' LEAGUE
MISSION STATEMENT

The Metropolitan Citizens' League is an organization of citizens actively advocating a regional point of view on public issues of the metropolitan area.

The Citizens' League serves as a forum to study opportunities and problems which transcend the region's city, county, and state boundaries. Among these are economic development, public transit, solid waste disposal, regional parks, regional library links, and public safety.

The Citizens' League monitors regional governments and organizations -- specifically, Metropolitan Service District, Tri-Met, the Port of Portland, the Portland Area Boundary Commission -- and seeks to improve their effectiveness and accountability.

The Citizens' League works in a variety of ways, including:

- Task force studies of critical issues, leading to recommendations for improvement
- Testimony to governmental bodies and decision-makers
- Development of educational materials on local and regional government for distribution to students and citizens
- Meeting regularly for luncheon with speakers on topics of special metropolitan interest.

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PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A METROPOLITAN STUDY COMMISSION

It is the Citizens' League intent to pursue the establishment of a metropolitan study commission in the coming months.

The study commission would be an independent group of community leaders (civic, business, labor and government) with a broad gauged mandate. Its focus would be on metropolitan issues, problems and governments--a look at problems and needs with a realistic look at the future. The commission would be a continuation of the efforts of the metropolitan community to provide effective means to solve area-wide problems started 20 years ago through the creation of the old Metropolitan Study Commission. That Commission, created in 1963, brought about among other things, the creation of the Columbia Region Association of Governments, enabling legislation for the creation of the Metropolitan Service District, the Portland Boundary Commission, and a City-County Charter Commission. A second step towards metropolitan government reform was taken in 1973 through the creation of the Tri-County Local Government Commission. That body brought about the enabling legislation which resulted in the merger of CRAG into the Metropolitan Service District, thus creating the "new" Metro.

SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL

Creation of Commission - We propose that the Citizens League Board of Directors appoint the members of the Commission from a list of names developed by an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee would be chaired by the President or another representative of the Citizens League and be made up of representatives from each of the four regional entities (Tri-Met, Metro, Boundary Commission, and the Port), plus the Tri-County League of Women Voters, the Metropolitan Area Chambers of Commerce, Labor Councils, the Futures Group, and others. The responsibility of the Nominating Committee would be to develop

a list of names of community leaders from business, civic, labor and government sectors. The Study Commission should consist of 30 to 40 members.

Scope of Review: It is important that the mandate of the study be broadly gauged yet specific enough to develop realistic recommendations for improvements to our metropolitan governance system. The Commission should study and make recommendations on the following:

1. Metropolitan Government Structure:

- o What are the current and suggested relationships among Tri-Met, Metro, and the Boundary Commission?
- o Are there changes necessary to improve the existing structures and to accomodate the provision of additional functions at the regional level, i.e., parks, libraries, jails, etc.?

2. Metropolitan Government Functions:

- o Given the current local government situation are there additional functions or needs which realistically are suited to be provided at the metropolitan level?
- o What changes need to be made to build metropolitan response?

3. Metropolitan Government Finance?

- o What sources and amounts of revenue are needed to assure stable, long-term funding of metropolitan area-wide services?
- o What changes need to be made to tap these revenue sources?

Timing of Review - The Study Commission will likely make recommendations which will require changes in state legislation. It is imperative that the Commission's work be completed by the end of August 1984. We would not officially appoint the Commission until there is some indication of substantial financial support as indicated below.

Funding of Study Commission - In order to do a credible job it is imperative

that the Commission have staff support--a full-time staff director and part-time clerical support at a minimum. We suggest a budget of \$50-75,000, these funds to be contributed from the governmental sector by Tri-Met, Metro, the Port, the Boundary Commission, and the State of Oregon, and from the business community and private foundations.

Summary - It is time for this community to reassess the functions and organizational relationships at the metropolitan level. Recent publicity about problems of funding parks, libraries and jails in this region are testimony that new ideas and approaches are needed for the provision of public services. Metro's current discussion of "taking over" Tri-Met also shows that relationships are changing. It is crucial that all the current interest and activity be channeled into an orderly and coordinated effort for a constructive outcome to occur. The metropolitan area does not have the time, energy or resources for individual efforts at governmental reform to become a reality. The "next step" in our evolving metropolitan governmental system will require the cooperation of all positive interested parties for the thought to become a reality.



METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

Providing Zoo, Transportation, Solid Waste and
other Regional Services

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Executive Officer

Metro Council

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District 9

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District 5

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District 6

Sharon Kelley
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Bruce Etlinger
District 10

Marge Kafoury
District 11

Gary Hansen
District 12

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May 25, 1983

Dr. Ron Cease
Portland State University
P. O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Ron:

Thank you for setting up the lunch with Rick Gustafson, Corky Kirkpatrick, Don Carlson and myself last Thursday. I appreciate you taking the time to discuss the Citizens' League's legislation, as well as a possible study of Metro.

I am very interested in your suggestion that the Metropolitan Citizens' League initiate an independent review of Metro's governance and relationship with other regional jurisdictions.

Would you mind putting in writing your thoughts regarding an independent review of Metro by the Metropolitan Citizens' League and, perhaps, request that the Metro Council indicate their support for the concept?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cindy
Cindy Banzer
Presiding Officer

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