

METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2014

Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Sam Chase, Shirley Craddick, Bob Stacey, Carlotta Collette and Craig Dirksen

Councilors Excused: Councilor Kathryn Harrington

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:08 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett updated the Council on the following items:

- A recent request from Willamette Week for a work session audio recording. Ms. Bennett reminded the Council that work sessions are public meetings with a public record.
- An e-mail from Paul Slyman concerning an approaching City Club event related to the Solid Waste roadmap. Metro sponsored two tables at the City Club of Portland's Friday Forum on July 11 with guest Edward Humes.

2. 2014 REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Lake McTighe provided an overview of recommendations in the regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and steps to move forward for consideration on July 17.

Working in partnership with cities, counties, agencies, advocates and other stakeholders, Metro developed the ATP to fulfill an implementation activity identified in the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan. The ATP was developed with involvement of key stakeholders, Metro's advisory committees, the Metro Council and the public. The plan is proposed for consideration as **Exhibit A** to the 2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan on July 17 as a standalone modal plan of the RTP. The plan provides a vision, plan and policies to guide and coordinate efforts across the region to increase transportation options and support economic development, healthy active living and equity.

Ms. McTighe provided an overview of the nine recommendations in the ATP:

1. Complete the regional plan network.
2. Make it safe for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, and access transit.
3. Ensure equitable access.
4. Support those already driving less.

5. Increase dedicated funding and develop a pipeline of projects.
6. Better integrate walking, bicycling and transit. (Dirksen: Oregon Attitude survey reinforces that support for walking and bicycling projects that make transit better; people support integration)
7. Make walking and bicycling, the most convenient, safe option for short trips.
8. Use data and analyses to make investment decisions.
9. Include bike/pedestrian projects in preservation projects whenever possible

Ms. McTighe updated Council on the public comment report available in **Exhibit B** of the 2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan. She shared a letter of support that had not been previously distributed from Coalition for a Livable Future.

Opportunities and actions for implementing the ATP are identified in **Attachment 1** [2013-15 Regional Active Transportation Work Program] and fall within four general areas: policy, partnerships, project development, and funding.

Ms. McTighe distributed a revised draft of the ATP adoption resolution scheduled for July 17 which added language stating that the ATP is not a component of the Regional Transportation Plan. She presented the next steps for advisory committee consideration before Council acts on July 17.

Council Discussion:

- Council and Staff discussed strategic planning of projects for unforeseen investment opportunities.
- Council discussed the timeline for completing the ATP relative to varying funding levels and potential options for fees to create a dedicated funding source. Historical levels of spending of \$10 million per year accounts for funding for standalone active transportation projects, not pedestrian or bicycle elements included in larger roadway projects. At historical levels of funding it will take over 200 years to complete the standalone bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects in the 2014 RTP. Council acknowledged that the 2015 transportation legislative package would offer an opportunity to consider allocating a portion of Statewide Transportation Improvement Program funding to active transportation. Council addressed targeting data to understand where investments will be most impactful and equitable.
- Council discussed the benefits of the integration of bicycling, walking and public transit in the ATP.
- In response to Council inquiry, staff stated that specific policy comments from the public comment period included adding more language to the plan on the accessibility for older age groups, using the term “people with disabilities” as opposed to disabled people and refining language about the environmental impact of trails.
- Council discussed concerns of some stakeholders that funding active transportation might require reprioritizing transportation projects. Ms. McTighe stated that the plan provides recommendations that will help achieve transportation goals and the 2040 Growth Concept, but points to larger funding policy discussions beyond the plan to determine how funding will be allocated.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TITLE VI ASSESSMENT FOR THE 2014 RTP AND 2015-2018 MTIP

Mr. Ted Leybold and Mr. Cliff Higgins provided an update on draft findings and recommendations for environmental justice and Title VI assessment for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2015-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) in preparation for Council action on July 17. As a metropolitan planning organization, Metro is required to conduct an Environmental Justice and Title VI assessment of the agency's transportation planning and programming activities. Recent changes to federal rules, direction from federal regulators to Metro, and Metro's ongoing development of an Equity Strategy has changed how staff is conducting the analysis and reporting process for the 2014 RTP and the 2015-18 MTIP.

Mr. Leybold summarized steps, limitations and methods for performing the analysis with the clarification that analysis applies at a regional plan and program scale. The investment analysis found that Metro was investing at a higher rate in all communities of concern than the regional average. He shared public comment and qualitative issues that followed the public review draft and which would inform the qualitative considerations of disproportionate burdens or impacts.

Mr. Leybold provided a draft list of recommendations from staff based on feedback received from stakeholders throughout the process. All draft recommendations are available in the meeting packet.

Council Discussion:

- In response to Council inquiry, staff explained that the "4/5ths rule" did not affect analysis because no communities of concern were receiving lower rates of funding than the regional average, but public comments reflected public concern about setting a precedent by recognizing the 4/5 rule in the initial analysis.
- Council asked clarifying questions about methodology in identifying and defining communities of concern. Staff provided an overview of the step-by-step process of methodology in identifying communities and analyzing data. Staff clarified thresholds of investment were analyzed against both geographic concentrations of communities of concern and all members of a community of concern relative to a regional average.
- Council and staff clarified that Resolution No. 14-4533, to be considered on July 17, would not endorse specific projects, but approve the process of analysis to undergo next steps.
- Council and staff discussed coordination between Metro's Equity Strategy and the Environmental Justice and Title VI assessment.

4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilors shared updates on the following: a funeral service held for Emilio Hoffman, the victim of a shooting at Reynolds High School, Metro picnic at the Oregon Zoo, the Powell-Division Steering Committee, and intent to focus on receivables during the next fiscal year audit.

Councilor Collette informed Council of three seven day notice items coming from the Transit-Oriented Development program.

5. ADJOURN

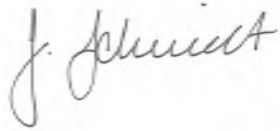
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Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Schmidt".

Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUN. 24, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.0	Agenda	6/26/14	Council Agenda for Jun. 26, 2014	62414cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	6/24/14	2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan - Preparing for Adoption Presentation	62414cw -02
2.0	Letter	5/5/14	Letter Re: Active Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan	62414cw -03
2.0	Handout	N/A	Revised Resolution No. 14-4526	62414cw -04
3.0	PowerPoint	6/24/14	Communities of Concern and the 2014 RTP and 2015-18 MTIP	62414cw -05
3.0	Handout	N/A	Stages of equity and civil rights engagement and impact assessment	62414cw-06
3.0	Handout	6/24/14	2014 Regional Transportation Plan and 2015-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Environmental Justice and Title VI Draft Recommendations	62414cw-07