



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2015  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

**Councilors Excused:** None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:02 p.m.

**1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

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

- Ms. Bennett handed out a draft agenda for the council retreat, Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Nathan Sykes announced that the first case regarding Senate Bill 927 on the Oregon Convention Center Hotel will have a decision made Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**2. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP: LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR SOLID WASTE**

- Mr. Paul Ehinger, Metro Solid Waste and Recycling Program Director gave an introduction to the long-term Solid Waste Roadmap. In the current situation food and other organics makes up 18% of the solid waste in the Portland region. There is also difficulty getting value out of garbage and trying to divert some of the solid waste from going into the Columbia Ridge landfill. By looking at other options to manage solid waste there will be many public benefits.
- Mr. Rob Smoot, Metro Senior Engineer described the council approved technologies to manage solid waste other than landfills, which included:
  - Gasification
  - Dry anaerobic digestion
  - Refuse-derived fuels
  - Advanced materials recovery
  - Waste to energy

***Council Discussion:***

- Council President Hughes inquired about overcoming financial challenges with the energy to waste option noting that because energy is relatively cheap in Oregon, the waste to energy option may not be profitable. Landfills in Oregon also have a large capacity to store more solid waste.

- Mr. Ehinger replied that there needs to be an assessment of all the costs and benefits when looking at any of the other 5 technologies. While there may not be financial benefits there will be other benefits for the residents of the region including public and environmental health benefits.
- Councilor Shirley Craddick inquired if it is possible to use two or more systems of managing solid waste together.
  - Mr. Smoot replied that it is possible and that no system technology is exclusive of the other.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington raised concerns about external variables affecting the functioning of the solid waste management system such as prolonged bad weather on landfills or labor disputes.
  - Mr. Ehinger answered that these sorts of risks are being evaluated and that work is being done to plan for a more resilient and sustainable solid waste management system in the future.
- Councilor Craddick inquired if there will always be some sort of product that ends up in landfills even after using the most advanced available technologies that manage solid waste.
  - Mr. Smoot answered that even with the most advanced technology available there will be some sort of byproduct that cannot be utilized and will be placed into landfills.

### **3. 2015 URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT DECISION: COO RECOMMENDATION DISCUSSION**

- Ms. Bennett introduced the Urban Growth Management (UGM) recommended decision, which was to not expand the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The recommended decision to not expand the boundary looked at economic changes, legal and political changes, and the success of regional and local policies. In the draft Urban Growth report, neither the population growth forecast nor the employment forecast showed a need for adding new land supply to the boundary.
- Mr. Ted Reid, Metro Senior Regional Planner described the two options for the Metro Council decision in fall 2015 on the revised urban growth management work program. These two options are:
  - Option 1: conclude the urban growth management decision in 2015, prior to resolution of urban reserves.
  - Option 2: request an extension from the state for the urban growth management decision to wait for the resolution of the urban reserves and to allow for additional discussion of housing needs.

#### ***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Sam Chase mentioned the importance of having the UGM decision look at potential demographic changes and migration into the region due to climate change. Data suggests the Pacific Northwest being more resilient to climate change than other parts of the U.S.
- Councilor Harrington inquired about the Economic Value Atlas Initiative in recommendation 6.
  - Ms. Elissa Gertler, Metro Planning Deputy Director answered that it is part of the Economic Areas Investment Program.

### **4. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

- Councilor Harrington announced the Portland State University magazine “Metroscope” had an interview with the new dean of the college of Urban and Public Affairs, Dr. Steven Perry. He may be someone Metro could work with in the future.
- Councilors Dirksen and Craddick attended the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) meeting with other Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) from the state on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilors Chase and Dirksen attend a Housing Equity Working Group meeting Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Botond Kovacs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 28, 2015**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Agenda	07/28/15	Council Retreat Agenda-Equity Strategy and Action Plan	072815cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	PowerPoint	07/28/15	Long-term management of garbage	072815cw-02
<b>3.0</b>	PowerPoint	07/28/15	2015 urban growth management decision	072815cw-03