



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2016  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

**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 (COO) Martha Bennett spoke to members of Metro Council on several items:

- Scott Cruickshank will serve as the interim General Manager (GM) of Visitor Venues starting October 3, 2016 and that Deputy Chief Operating Officer (DCOO) Scott Robinson will also provide management oversight of the Oregon Zoo beginning October 15, 2016. Ms. Bennett concludes this point by stating the recruitment process for the GM position is underway and that Metro Council will have the opportunity to weigh in.
- Reminders of an invitation from Don Moore regarding the Integrated Conservation Action Plan reception and keynote address on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and September 15, 2016 respectively. Ms. Bennett mentioned that these events will help frame the future of the Oregon Zoo.
- Oregon City commissioner voted to recommend that the Whitewater Park no longer be part of the official planning for Willamette Falls and that the vote is consistent with Metro's position. This vote allows the project to move forward with the public river walk without considering the integration of a whitewater park.

**2. URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE: UPDATE**

Elissa Gertler, Metro's Director of Planning and Development, began the discussion by highlighting the purpose of discussion is to provide Metro Council with an opportunity to coordinate for the third meeting of the urban growth management task force, and that the desired outcome is for Council to provide its liaisons with additional feedback on the Council's interests related to the task force. Ms. Gertler highlighted a November 2015 Metro Council meeting in regards to a decision made on the urban growth management strategy. Council indicated during this meeting that its intent to convene partners to discuss possible improvements to the region's process for managing residential growth. Ms. Gertler then highlighted a meeting that occurred on February 2, 2016 where

Metro Council included convening an Urban Growth Readiness Task Force (UGRTF) and that the next task force meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2016. Ms. Gertler then acknowledged the last Task Force meeting where members agreed on a problem statement and core values and requested staff suggestions in two areas:

- Defining expectations for cities requesting modest urban growth boundary (UGB) expansions
- Identifying additional mechanisms for adjusting the UGB.

John Williams, Metro, discussed prior staff activity working with the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) to develop initial concepts and implementation suggestions that were brought before Council on July 19, 2016. Mr. Williams then highlighted Council recommendations to return to the subject after further development on outcomes with focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion as well as affordable housing. Mr. Williams then spoke about Metro Council seeking flexibility to respond to city requests for modest residential UGB expansions into urban reserves. Mr. Williams then suggested four areas of work for implementation:

- Clarify expectations for cities requesting modest residential UGB expansions
- Seek greater flexibility for determining regional housing needs
- Seek greater flexibility when choosing among urban reserves for UGB expansion
- Facilitate the UGB exchange process

Mr. Williams concluded his discussion by asking Metro Council if they wish to provide their liaisons with direction for the Task Force's September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilors expressed support for the urban growth management task force and asked clarifying questions regarding its direction. Councilor Dirksen mentioned that this is directed to address expansions for residential development and that there are some jurisdictions that are concerned over expansions into employment and/or industrial lands and asked if this would address those concerns as well. John Williams answered by stating that Metro already has discretion under state law to have more flexible approaches to employment and industrial lands so this is focused on residential land simply to loosen those restrictions.

Councilor Stacey recollected past concerns over property rights and land use planning and questioned the consideration of regional transportation patterns and greenhouse gases, and recommended changing the language to reflect capturing the regional growth rate within the urban growth boundary. Council President Hughes recounted on policy decisions to measure growth rate is chosen to increase development in remote areas in order to increase growth within the urban growth boundary rather than outside the limits of the boundary. Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on expansions of small areas without swapping lands limited to 500 acres and expressed concern that smaller areas would not be developed. John Williams mentioned that this policy decision has been decided on and that its basis was not in science but allowable limitation and that it may take time to refine goals and limitation on areas that might get swapped.

Councilor Harrington highlighted the difference between unincorporated areas and rural areas and the need for the agency to be careful on the use of language going forward. Councilor Craddick asked if there are options for affordable housing with new development to which Mr. Williams expressed assurance that there will be. Councilor Harrington highlighted the difference between unincorporated areas and rural areas and the need for the agency to be careful on the use of language going forward. Councilor Chase questioned the ability to be persuasive in the goals outlined to the state legislature and the balance of affordable housing with proximity to locals as a deciding factor. Council President Hughes expressed satisfaction with the direction outlined, but was critical on land swapping for short term solutions, distinguishing it from addressing long term outcomes with a focus on housing affordability.

### **3. RFFA BOND PROCEEDS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Elissa Gertler, Metro, discussed the purpose and desired outcomes of the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA) bond proceeds for regional active transportation project. Ms. Gertler mentioned that staff is looking to identify a menu and pipeline of active transportation projects that decision makers can draw from for new funding resources, as well as a process for allocating RFFA bond proceeds. Ms. Gertler continued by highlighting Metro Councils adoption of the 2018-2021 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the 2019-2021 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation Policy Statement that focuses on using flexible funds in a way that puts the region in a strong positions to compete for and leverage additional sources of revenue, developing multi-modal travel choices for the public that will address current transportation bottleneck issues, and to strategically invest flexible funds to develop work on a package of major projects to have a set of options that are ready to leverage new funding opportunities.

Lake McTighe, Metro, continued the discussion by explaining that the overarching goal of the proposed project is to create a menu of regional active transportation projects. Ms. McTighe elaborated by stating this includes providing a pipeline of specific active transportation projects that are able to leverage funding resources that otherwise would be unavailable without project options to choose from. She then discussed how the project options will be selected through regional transportation planning with input from elected and community leaders in developing strategies that connect values, visions, technology, investments, and funding. She summarized by stating this development will be shaped by leaders and the projects will be further refined by those selected by the leaders. She concluded the discussion by asking councilors if the role of Metro Council in this process is clear and if Council feels the project is aligned with the Council's strategic direction on overall regional transportation package development.

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

Councilors asked clarifying questions regarding the use of language in the RFFA bond proceeds project, specifically towards project development. Ms. McTighe replied that this presentation was to highlight a pathway to develop projects so that they are ready for construction once funding is leveraged and mentioned that the end product will be a set of projects that have development

potential. Ms. Gertler further clarified that the state legislature will be able to pull projects that align with political work, and that this is a way to select items off the menu to add to the legislation.

Councilor Craddick asked if this project fits into the safe routes to school project. Ms. McTighe responded that safe routes to school is a part of the regional transportation plan and is one of the criteria for project determination. Councilor Stacey questioned the ability to be equitable with a concern that too many projects may be concentrated to too few jurisdictions. Ms. Gertler clarified that the project goal is to create a strategy to develop critical projects of regional importance and that limitations will be funding. Councilor Harrington expressed concern over the menu and sub-menu concept for project selection, rural concerns, and climate smart strategy, specifically if these concerns will be reflected by staff liaisons. Ms. Gertler explained that the term menu is a way to create a set of options to choose from and councilors have discretion to choose projects that they see fit the goals that are most important to them. Councilor Craddick asked if there is a way to provide a draft of selection criteria to which Ms. McTighe responded that staff are able to do an analysis. Ms. Gertler added that this list of products will use return of investment as the main criteria for being placed on the menu, while councilors may then choose projects that fit their individual criteria. Councilors Dirksen and Harrington touched on the needs for geographic criteria that should be defined and the differences between geographic equity and social equity. Ms. Gertler stated that this could easily be reframed. Councilor Harrington also questioned how elected officials in her area will perceive this project. Council President Hughes concluded that with more criteria and complexity comes less ability to have equity because there will be neighborhoods unable to meet the criteria, and that there is a need to have equity built into the system.

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

Councilor Harrington mentioned a youth oriented biking event in relation to North Tualatin Mountains and Chehalem Ridge, a UGB expansion in the North Bethany area, and Washington County's ordinance on having a variable buffer on geography and typology. Councilor Dirksen announced a transportation policy decision made by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) where it was decided that the current gas tax funding power has been reduced and is changing with vehicle efficiency and that there is a task force looking at supplementing revenue from Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) fees. Councilor Craddick mentioned her and Councilor Stacey as being involved in several Powell-Division steering committee meetings and that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will not be able to service some areas and is a disappointment to some residents in her jurisdiction.

#### **5. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Spencer, Council Policy Assistant



**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	PowerPoint	09/13/2016	Active Transportation Project Development	091316cw-01
<b>3.0</b>	PowerPoint	09/13/2016	Urban Growth Readiness	091316cw-02