

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, March 23, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**AGENDA REVISED 03/23/17**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber**

**Council meeting**

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**Present:** 7 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Carlotta Collette, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Kathryn Harrington, and Councilor Bob Stacey

**2. Citizen Communication**

Eric Wentland, City of Portland: Mr. Wentland of Greenway Recycling testified in opposition to Ordinance No. 17-1395. Mr. Wentland explained that Greenway Recycling and other industry stakeholders felt that rates proposed were unfair and unlawful. (Mr. Wentland also provided written testimony; please see the March 23 meeting packet.)

Art Lewellan, City of Portland: Mr. Lewellan shared a pamphlet with proposals for a bridge crossing the Columbia River and a corresponding MAX light rail. He noted that he had asked for the proposal to be reviewed at the City of Portland as well and emphasized the importance of additional transportation options. (Mr. Lewellan also provided written testimony; please see the March 23 meeting packet.)

**3. Consent Agenda**

3.1 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2017

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Councilor Dirksen, seconded by Councilor Stacey, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Hughes, Councilor Chase, Councilor Collette, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Harrington, and Councilor Stacey

**4. Ordinances (Second Reading)**

- 4.1 Ordinance No. 17-1395, For the Purpose of Adopting Solid Waste Charges and User Fees for FY 2017-18

Council President Hughes stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 17-1395 took place on Thursday, March 16. He informed the Metro Council that Mr. Tim Collier, Metro's Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, was available for questions.

*Council Discussion*

There was none.

**A motion was made by Councilor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Stacey, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Hughes, Councilor Chase, Councilor Collette, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Harrington, and Councilor Stacey

**5. Public Hearings**

- 5.1 Public Hearing on the Powell-Division Locally-Preferred Alternative (LPA) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment

Council President Hughes called on Ms. Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara, Metro staff, for a brief presentation on the hearing. Ms. Mros-O'Hara noted that the project was a partnership between Metro, local communities, TriMet, the Cities of Portland and Gresham, Multnomah County, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). She invited Ms. Leah Treat, City of Portland, Ms. Katherine Kelly, City of Gresham, and Mr. Neil McFarlane, TriMet, to present with her as project partner representatives. Ms. Treat, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. McFarlane expressed support for the proposed LPA and noted that they were excited to move forward with the project.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara provided an update on the Powell-Division locally-preferred alternative (LPA). She stated that the public comment period would be open until March 31 and explained that once it closed, staff would take the comments provided and incorporate them into legislation that would be brought before the Metro Council for consideration and adoption in June. She informed the Council that the project focused on bus rapid transit (BRT) that would connect the Cities of Portland and Gresham with a 14-mile improvement, tailored to the different neighborhoods it spanned. Ms. Mros-O'Hara provided an overview of the projects in-depth public engagement approach that focused on bringing the community in early to help shape the outcome and address their concerns. She explained that the outreach helped identify the community's strong interests in equitable housing, safety, and community development in addition to transit improvements.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara emphasized that the Division corridor was high transit-demand corridor with strong ridership and a demand that exceeded its capacity. She explained that the LPA identified the most suitable mode of transportation for the corridor, the route, and the general station locations. She stated that the BRT was chosen because its flexibility would make it easier for the route to access downtown Portland and downtown Gresham.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara provided an overview of the BRT busses and the new features that would be included, including station improvements and transit signal priority. She noted that the improvements would help improve safety, manage congestion, and provide better transit options to local residents.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara explained that Metro's project partners had adopted the LPA and ODOT had shared a letter of support. She discussed how the LPA would fit into Metro's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and noted that staff recommended that the evaluation of future Powell corridor improvements be included in the 2018 RTP. She added that in response to concerns that the BRT would not reach Mount Hood Community College, the project partners had agreed to support enhancements to TriMet Line 20 that served the area. Ms. Mros-O'Hara then shared the project's next steps, noting that the public comment period would end on March 31.

Council President Hughes opened a public hearing on the Powell-Division Locally-Preferred Alternative (LPA) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak.

Michael Harnson, City of Portland: Mr. Harnson, speaking on behalf of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University (PSU), testified in support of the project. He noted that the project had the potential to make significant transit improvements in the region and would benefit both institutions. He urged the Council to support the Powell-Division project with the alignment that utilized Tilikum Crossing. (Mr. Harnson also provided written testimony; please see the March 23 meeting packet.)

Council President Hughes gavelled out of the public hearing. He noted that the vote on Resolution No. 17-4776 and first read and public hearing on Ordinance No. 17-1396 were

scheduled for Thursday, May 25.

*Councilor Discussion*

Councilors thanked Metro staff and their project partners for all their efforts. Councilors discussed how the Powell corridor would be addressed in the future and how the RTP would be amended.

**6. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Chief Operating Officer Pro Tem Scott Cruikshank provided an update on the following events or items: the Small Business Open House, a Community Placemaking Session on April 28, Shen Yun at the Keller Auditorium, and the retirement of Mr. Tom Bugas, an employee of Metro for forty years. Mr. Cruikshank thanked Mr. Bugas for his contributions to the agency.

**7. Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: a discussion on brownfield development at OHSU, the Bi-State Coordinating Committee meeting, the Outer Powell Safety Project open house, a report on greenhouse gas emissions, Metro's Regional Partnership Forum at the Oregon Zoo Education Center, community participation organization (CPO) meetings, and speaking events with Mr. Tony Pickett of Denver's Urban Land Conservancy.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 3:26 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on April 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator



**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2017**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Testimony	03/23/17	Eric Wentland Ordinance No. 17-1395 Testimony	032317c-01
<b>2.0</b>	Testimony	03/23/17	Art Lewellan Columbia River MAX Light Rail Proposal	032317c-02
<b>4.1</b>	Handout	03/23/17	Exhibit A (Amended) to Ordinance No. 17-1395	032317c-03
<b>5.1</b>	Testimony	03/23/17	Michael Harnson Powell-Division Project Testimony on Behalf of OHSU and Portland State University	032317c-04
<b>3.1</b>	Minutes	03/23/17	Council Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2017	032317c-05