

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro Chief Operating Officer, made the following announcements:

- She informed the Council that Mr. Roy Brower, Metro Property and Environmental Services Program Director, had sent the councilors emails regarding public notices for solid waste facilities that had licenses due for renewal.
- She invited the councilors to participate in the Bike More Challenge.
- She would be attending an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) conference held at the Resort at the Mountain from April 12 through April 14.

Work Session Topics:**2:10 Regional Transit Strategy Draft Policy Framework and Vision**

Ms. Elissa Gertler, Planning and Development Director, introduced the Regional Transit Strategy presentation. She explained that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) would address more than just high capacity transit (HCT). In addition to investments in capital projects, the RTP would also consider low income fares, bus service, shuttle service, and operational and funding strategies for transit. Ms. Gertler stated that increasing transit was one of the best ways that Metro could strive to increase equity within the region.

Ms. Jamie Snook, Metro Transportation Planner, reminded the Council of the Regional Transit objectives. The objectives were to implement the 2040 Growth Plan, update the RTP policies and performance measures, update the HCT map, update the Transit System Expansion Policy, and recommend a coordinated strategy for future transit investments. Ms. Snook highlighted how the RTP had been a collaborative effort between Metro, TriMet, C-Tran, and other organizations. She explained to the Council that now was a critical time to make updates to the RTP, because the region was growing and efficient transit was needed. Ms. Snook discussed the HCT System Plan, the top two priorities of which were the Southwest Corridor project and Powell-Division project. Ms. Snook also discussed proposed adjustments to the adopted HCT plan and the HCT system map; certain transit projects that were initially short-term plan priorities had been deferred, such as the I-5 Bridge, Lake Oswego to Portland, and a connection to the recently disincorporated city of Damascus. Ms. Snook explained that the regional transit vision was built off of the Climate Smart Strategy, and aimed to make transit more frequent, convenient, accessible, and affordable for everyone. Ms. Snook noted an emerging concept: Enhanced Transit Corridors (ETCs). She explained to the Council that ETCs were context sensitive and relatively low-cost to construct. She highlighted that HCT could come in many forms, and discussed a regional transit spectrum that included transit that operated in mixed traffic, such as buses; transit that received priority treatment, such as bus rapid transit (BRT); and transit that had an exclusive guideway, such as light rail. Ms. Snook presented the Council with a draft RTP map, and covered the Transit System Expansion Policy.

Ms. Snook sought Council feedback on: the proposed changes to the adopted HCT System Plan and map; the ETC concept and framework; and transit capital project prioritization criteria that staff should consider.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Stacey stated he would like to see more frequent service brought to existing transit lines. Councilor Collette approved of the stated goals and the presented changes to the HCT plan priorities, but expressed concern about the HCT system map and what would happen to Powell Boulevard following the Division BRT development. Councilor Dirksen had questions regarding the policy strategies and goals set forth by staff in the Transit Strategy Vision Memo. Councilor Dirksen approved of the updates to the HCT system map, and proposed that the region should evaluate its system and determine ways to improve following the completion of the Southwest Corridor light rail line. Councilor Craddick thought that the time to start discussing improvements to the current system was now; she spoke about the possible addition of an underground rail, and ways to increase transit ridership. Councilor Craddick also highlighted that localities must need and want a HCT line to reach them before that line was created; Metro would not move into any area until or unless the agency received full partnership with jurisdictions along the route. Councilor Craddick pointed out the need for redundancies and the ability for transit to function in the event of a significant disaster. Councilor Harrington inquired about Yamhill County Transit's participation in the process, spoke about the Aloha Tomorrow project, highlighted the necessity of partnership between Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), TriMet, and other organizations, and emphasized maximizing the efficiency of existing transit lines. Councilor Chase appreciated that the wisest transit investments for the region were those that would deliver the greatest returns and impact the most people. Councilor Harrington discussed poverty and equity within the region, and highlighted the need to maintain focus on transit-dependent riders. Ms. Gertler noted that equity was a key piece of the RTP work and that equity should be a priority when selecting projects. Councilor Dirksen asked if

fleet upgrades were being considered as part of capital project prioritization. Ms. Snook noted that TriMet was constantly dealing with fleet upgrades, and that light rail cars were also aging and would require replacement; fleet upgrades would be a continuing conversation. Ms. Snook informed the Council that the Regional Transit Strategy policy framework and vision would next be presented to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), and the TriMet Board of Directors.

2:40 Councilor Communication

There was none.

3:00 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Unterberg, Council Policy Assistant