

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Present: 7 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

2:05 Safety Briefing**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 Planning For a New Economy and a Refresh of the Regional Growth Concept: Work Program Development

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: Planning For a New Economy](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Ms. Elissa Gertler, Metro's Director of Planning and Development, Mr. Ted Reid, Principal Regional Planner, and Mr. Jeff Raker, Project Manager.

Ms. Gertler reviewed the importance of the 2040 growth concept and its integral role in leading Metro's planning efforts. She further emphasized the growth of the Portland region in the past few years and the purpose of the 2040 Growth Concept Plan in aligning the region's current needs to adjust for the changing economic climate. Ms. Gertler emphasized the urgency to incorporate racial equity, additional climate change mitigation, climate adaption, and resilience within the 2040 Growth Concept Plan.

Mr. Reid reviewed the 1995 Growth Concept video and described the changes that have taken place within our region since the inception of the video. He stated the criteria for long-term regional plans and policy solutions should address population growth and quality of life, particularly in the sectors of land use or transportation planning.

Mr. Reid described three underlying themes that Metro staff recommends highlighting for the 2080 Growth Concept Refresh, including planning for a new economy, creating great places, and building community resilience. He explained the proposed four phases for the 2040 Growth Concept Refresh, which included understanding economic and other trends, updating the future vision, public engagement, and input, and lastly to set a path forward.

Mr. Reid asked for Council's feedback regarding the proposed program goals, themes, and timeline.

Mr. Raker introduced various potential approaches to exploring the future of the region's economy and implementing community engagement. He briefly explained Metro's role in defining or reacting to the different areas of the region's economy. Mr. Raker addressed the potential disruptions that could change future economic activity, including automation, micro-scale manufacturing, and the growth of the gig economy. He mentioned a few sites or policies that could be tested to set a new path forward including revisiting industrial employment land policies and zoning, building and leveraging new tools for site readiness and brownfields development, and lastly working with partners to form economic districts of focus.

Mr. Raker described the Economic Value Atlas as a collaborative project to provide tools and analysis to help align infrastructure, planning, and economic development for future investments and provided a brief overview of its functions.

Council Discussion

Councilor Stacy appreciated the focus on community resilience and requested for staff to address other critical issues with the existing Growth Concept Plan, such as

increasing income disparity.

Councilor Craddick inquired of how Metro could help influence school districts in acquiring lands for future growth. She asked of industrial land and how to prevent prospective properties from being rezoned into housing rather than for industry. Councilor Craddick mentioned the new Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion areas and inquired of how to ensure Metro is adequately protecting the natural areas within the region to improve livability within the region.

Councilor Craddick emphasized the importance of racial equity and requested for it to take an over-arching position while building the 2040 Growth Concept Refresh plan. Councilor Chase requested for more emphasis climate change to be included as a specific theme under staff's recommendations. Ms. Gertler responded that racial equity and climate change are "umbrella" topics under which all of the themes will function, and thus, those two criteria will be addressed in each outcome.

Council President Peterson suggested including a third overarching "umbrella" criteria of youth involvement and encouraging their engagement in each theme.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired of Metro's role in protecting farmland and addressed the need for a farmland strategy within the 2040 Growth Concept Plan. He additionally requested for more initiative in breaking down the historic systemic inequities of land acquisition for people of color within this country.

Councilor Gonzalez described the difference between community-led planning and community engagement planning and requested for more of the former. He advised having a more data driven approach behind the climate

change outcomes and goals, ultimately leaving leeway to incorporate future technology.

Councilor Lewis advised for Metro to be thoughtful of succession planning for future generations and requested for staff to create a plan surrounding water scarcity.

Councilor Craddick inquired of any new construction or plan regarding the use of solar energy.

Council President Peterson requested for more focus to be placed on energy conservation. She emphasized Councilor Gonzalez's point of including farmland and asked for awareness and research regarding farmlands outside of the UGB. Council President Peterson added that Metro has great forecasting ability and asked for these resources to be leveraged to provide more detailed forecasting regarding housing, especially in terms of demographics and economic influence.

Council President Peterson inquired of Greater Portland Inc. (GPI) and their involvement in the Economic Value Atlas work. She further asked about rezoning and protecting industrial land for future development. Council President Peterson inquired of industrial modeling and industrial land usage, and the potential to measure these trends.

Councilor Craddick inquired of the influence of legal marijuana and its effects on land use.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if there are any tools to help assess the acreage of land that is used for parking in relation to all of the land that Metro owns.

3:10 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond Draft Legislation

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: Regional Investment Strategy – Parks and Nature](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Mr. Jon Blasher, Metro's Director of Parks and Nature. Mr. Blasher reported on his attendance of the Special East Bay Parks District Forum in California.

Mr. Blasher reviewed the agenda for the discussion as to address the current state of the parks and nature bond draft, to finalize funding areas, and to report on the timeline and next steps in the bond renewal process. He explained the region's increasing growth and diversity and its implications on parks and natural resources, including the impact on accessibility for everyone, whether white, brown, or black. Mr. Blasher emphasized the additional risks of climate change and the urgent need to address this epidemic.

Mr. Blasher explained the framework for the bond measure as to focus on maintaining the current tax rate, putting people first, advancing racial equity, and preparing for climate change. He reviewed a few key community themes including to prioritize taking care of Metro's existing parks and lands, to protect culturally significant land, to make investments that would have multiple benefits to the community, to increase access to nature in underserved communities, and to address ongoing displacement and gentrification.

Mr. Blasher stated the funds raised by the bond measure would be distributed across the six categories of protecting and restoring land, taking care of Metro parks, continuing the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, supporting local projects, creating trails for walking and biking, and advancing large-scale community visions. He mentioned Council's feedback from the last parks and nature

discussion and stated staff's current proposal for fund distribution among the six categories.

Mr. Blasher requested for final feedback and commentary from Council regarding the proposed funding allocation.

Mr. Blasher provided an overview of the current status of the draft bond legislation and contained detail of each exhibit within the document. He stated Exhibit A to include the program overview and criteria, Exhibits B-G would focus on the program area details, and Exhibit F would consist of the ballot title. He also noted the staff report for the legislation would be available the following week.

Mr. Blasher reviewed the program criteria for the outcomes of equity, engagement, and climate resilience for each project within the bond. He also addressed a few changes within the protecting and restoring land category, including clarification of the Safford Basin target area and the addition of a new initiative for land acquisition to advance racial justice goals.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson suggested adjusting the budget distribution to increase funding for capital grants while maintaining funding for community grants from the previous bond.

Councilor Stacey inquired of the capacity of partners and communities to deliver on the community grant projects during the final phases of the bond projects if they were to continue on the current trajectory.

Councilor Gonzalez asked for clarification on the process of flexible match requirements to maximize racial equity. He also inquired if there was a frame of reference to define

racial equity and where the two to one ratio for the funding match were founded.

Council President Peterson suggested leaving the current funding allocation for Nature in Neighborhood as it is but noted that Council might reconsider their options in the future. Councilor Gonzalez asked which projects in particular from Metro's parks and capital category would be funded and how that money would be distributed to maximize impact.

Councilor Stacey inquired of what the future role of Council in identifying priorities within each funding category would be.

Council President Peterson requested clarification on the outcome of accessibility and suggested to have it be further highlighted in the overarching criteria for the bond measure. Councilor Stacey added the importance of including accessibility in every implication of the term. Councilor Gonzalez defined the difference between principles, criteria, and outcomes and emphasized the importance of including accessibility in each of these capacities.

Councilor Lewis asked whether Fields creek would be included in the Safford Basin target area for protecting and restoring lands.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired if measurement of carbon emissions and greenhouse gases has been a part of the bond measure in previous years. Councilor Chase advised for Metro to seize opportunities of land acquisitions that may align with the bond's outcomes. He also suggested having a transparent and solidified process in identifying urban targeting and planning areas.

Councilor Chase proposed adjustments to the program's

criteria including adding a timeline to hold projects accountable under proposed urban target areas and also further specifying the criteria for property acquired within these target areas. Councilor Dirksen requested for staff to include language about project oversight and accountability within the program criteria.

Councilor Chase requested for the inclusion of the opportunities to bring back nature in urban areas, such as through depaving, within the program activities for major capital restoration projects. He also suggested, under program criteria, to add in a priority that focuses on acquiring and restoring land in urban areas that would bring nature closer to where people live.

Councilor Lewis inquired if there was a way to include the Willamette Water Trail within the trails exhibit under the draft legislation.

3:55 Legislative Update

Council President Peterson introduced Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro's Director of Government Affairs and Policy Development, to provide a brief legislative update. Mr. Shaw noted that the Student Success Act had passed both houses of the legislature and the governor has intended to sign it within the day. He reviewed the status of a few transportation legislation concerning Clackamas County, including an effort to raise funding for a Transportation Futures Study and an I-205 funding measure, both of which Metro intends to support.

Mr. Shaw reported that Metro had been asked by partners and stakeholders to register in opposition to House Bill 2796, which it would allow for the potential of housing development to be built in a degraded wetland. He asked for Council's insight and confirmation to submit opposition testimony.

Council Discussion

Mr. Andrew Scott, Metro's Interim Chief Operating Officer, inquired if the Clean Energy Fund, previously passed by the City of Portland, would be exempt from the preemptions under the Student Success Act moving forward. Mr. Dirksen asked if there was any response from legislators regarding the request from local governments to have the preemption removed from the act.

Council stated support for submitting an opposition testimony to House Bill 2796.

Councilor Dirksen requested an update on the House Bill 2020, the Carbon Cap & Trade bill. Mr. Shaw responded that an amendment had been published which retains the language regarding the distribution of funds and prioritizing Climate Smart strategies, but has added a proposition for the removal of a match requirement by local governments.

4:15 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Mr. Scott noted the Spring Metro All-Staff meeting taking place on May 15th at 3 pm. He added that he would be out of the office from May 17th through the 21st to attend the annual board meeting of the Government Finance Officers Association.

4:20 Councilor Communication

Councilor Dirksen reported on his attendance of the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee's meeting and provided an overview of the meeting discussions. He added that he would be out of the office from May 19th to the 28th on a business visit to Korea.

Councilor Stacey provided an update on the recent Marquam Hill Connector Task Force meeting for the Southwest Corridor Project to select an alternative route from the Gibson St. station on Barbur Blvd. up to the top of

Marquam Hill. He also reported on his attendance of Jessica Howard's final meeting as President of the Southeast campus of Portland Community College.

4:25 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janani Srinivasan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 14, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	5/14/2019	Growth Concept Refresh	051419cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	5/14/2019	Regional Investment Strategy – Parks and Nature	051419cw -02
3.0	Handout	5/14/2019	Reolution No. 19-4988 Draft	051419cw -03