

**Bi-state coordination committee**

**meeting summary**

October 17, 2013

Metro Council Chamber

**Members/Representatives Present**: Tom Hughes, Steve Stuart, Kelly Brooks, Susie Lahsene, Diane McKeel, Jack Burkman, Olivia Clark, Jeff Hamm, Dean Lookingbill, Bart Gernhart, Katie Brooks, and Andy Cotugno

Metro Council President Tom Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:34 A.M.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Each member introduced him/herself to the group and noted which jurisdiction or organization they represented. President Hughes explained that the discussion would focus on whether or not the committee should be reconvened, and if so, what topics should be discussed.

1. **REVIEW OF BI-STATE COORDINATION COMMITTEE CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

Mr. Lookingbill reviewed the charter and resolution approving the committee’s bylaws. He outlined the history of the group and its evolution from the Bi-State Transportation Committee to the Bi-State Coordinating Committee in 2003. He noted that the charter allows the discussion of a variety of topics including “legislative land use and transportation issues which may have environmental, economic development and environmental justice implications” in the I-5 and I-205 corridors. He explained that the committee has been inactive for the last three years, following the creation of other committees overseeing the I-5 replacement bridge. He also described the other projects the committee had been involved with.

Per Councilor Burkman’s inquiry about the geographic scope detailed in the charter, Mr. Lookingbill and Mr. Cotugno explained that the boundaries were laid to be more inclusive than exclusive. Mr. Lookingbill noted that restructuring of the committee needs to be considered with thought for the issues facing the Bi-State region today. Mr. Cotugno gave examples of new programs that may need to be included in future Bi-State Coordination Committee discussions including: Portland Pulse, Greater Portland Inc, and the passenger rail study.

1. **RESTARTING the BI-STATE COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

President Hughes asked the group what role the committee should play regarding the I-5 replacement bridge, if the committee moves forward. Commissioner Stuart explained that the focus of the committee in previous years had been centered on the bridge, but the discussion shifted away from it when the Columbia River Crossing task force was created. He noted that currently there is no forum for an effective Bi-State discussion, and the committee might fill that role. Councilor Burkman, in agreement with Commissioner Stuart, explained that without commandeering a part of MPAC or JPACT, there is no opportunity for a larger regional discussion involving both states.

The committee discussed what reorganization of the committee would involve. President Hughes noted that the current makeup of the committee was not conducive to discussing issues other than transportation. Ms. Brooks additionally explained that the current Bi-State Committee structure does not encompass the types of discussions the committee members may want to have moving forward.

The committee then discussed ways in which the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies could convey a Bi-State regional message to the region’s residents. Ms. Sheila Martin, of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, suggested that the institute host a bi-state issues seminar, focusing on topics that are not always conceived as bi-state in nature. Commissioner Stuart noted the importance of explaining how much economic flow there is across the river. He additionally emphasized the value of having elected officials in a position to discuss regional issues and represent their constituents. Ms. Brooks suggested that the institute take input on the topics the committee should discuss, in order to make the discussion more responsive. Ms. Martin recommended that interview data from a study done five years prior be updated to reflect what the citizens see as the current issues.

President Hughes noted that bi-state coordination is taking place, but in silos; he explained that there is a need for a forum where these conversations can be brought into a broader bi-state discussion. Mr. Gernhart also noted that there may be need for a bi-state land use discussion regarding upcoming Clark County ballot measures. Commissioner Stuart cautioned the committee against a reactionary response towards the measures.

The committee discussed what the short and long term goals of the committee would be if reconvened. The need to educate the elected officials on the connectivity of the region, so that they are able to effectively convey that message to their constituents, was acknowledged as urgent. Additionally, identification of the range of topics to be discussed by a reconvened committee was noted as time sensitive.

1. **COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT: BI-STATE COORDINATION COMMITTEE ROLE?**

Ms. Lahsene explained that she is concerned that any large undertaking by the committee might redirect attention from the I-5 replacement bridge project. Ms. Brooks noted that as the bridge project moves forward, the committee may have the opportunity to be helpful to the process.

1. **nEXT sTEPS**

Ms. Lahsene made a motion to approve Metro Council President Tom Hughes as the committee chair and Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart as the Vice-Chair of the Bi-State Coordination Committee. Councilor Burkman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Per Chair Hughes suggestion, Vice-Chair Stuart made a motion to create a letter urging the Oregon legislature to consider the I-5 replacement bridge prior to the February date proposed by Senator Courtney. Mr. Hamm seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lookingbill and Mr. Cotugno were asked to draft a letter immediately.

At this point, Ms. Martin suggested that the institute could work to create an atlas depicting the connectivity of the bi-state region.

The committee decided to continue meeting without immediate restructuring.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

Seeing no further business, Chair Tom Hughes adjourned the meeting at 8:58 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

