

Memorandum

Date: February 3, 2012

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager *cf*

Subject: February 6 Work Session

The City Council is scheduled to meet in a work session on Monday, February 6 at 6:00. The agenda includes:

- Results of the Community Attitudes Survey. Tom Eiland of CFM, who conducted the survey, will distribute the results of the survey and present not only the data, but his analysis of the information.
- Planning Department Work Plan. Each year, many of the Council's prioritized initiatives are within the expertise of our Planning Department. Planning Director John Sonnen's report describes all of the projects his department is currently working on as well as some that are under consideration to be added to their docket. The information also describes the amount of capacity that his department has to engage in new project. We will be looking for direction from the Council on these items – either Monday evening or during the Council retreat next weekend.
- Review of the February 13 agenda. Please note that your February 13 agenda includes both a regular meeting and a work session immediately following the regular meeting. The work session is scheduled to discuss the City's lack of a requirement for a franchise agreement to utilize public right of way. Because this topic has been discussed as part of the Lake Oswego – Tigard water project, we have asked Pam Beery to present information about this topic. That information will be provided to the Council next week.

Council Retreat Schedule

The Council retreat is scheduled for 5:30-8:30 on Friday, February 10 and 8:30-12:00 on Saturday, February 11. The retreat will take place in the community room at the Willamette Fire Station.

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To: John Kovash, Mayor
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From: Chris Jordan, City Manager 

Subject: Miscellaneous Items

Letter to Tri Met

At the Council's direction, the City has sent the attached letter to Tri Met regarding the need to continue the Route 154 bus line.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The City has submitted an application for CDBG funding for the expansion of the Adult Community Center. We believe we can make a very good argument justifying the project and the need for funds. This week Parks and Recreation Director Ken Worcester met with County staff who informed him that the County will receive a total of \$3 million in CDBG grant funds for distribution, and has received \$16 million in total requests. Although we will advocate strongly for our project, we do face a tough fight.

Water System Maintenance

Last week, during routine maintenance of the Bolton reservoir, staff noticed a 60-foot long tear in the cover. Staff has managed to have the tear repaired expeditiously. The cost of the repair was \$11,000.

Arch Bridge Project Noise Waiver Request

The Oregon Department of Transportation continues construction of the improved Arch Bridge. To keep this project on schedule, ODOT has requested a waiver from the City's noise ordinance to begin working 24 hours per day. Because the bridge is a critical link in our transportation system, I expect to grant the waiver during the next week. We will ask that ODOT limit its nighttime work to less noisy construction activities to the extent possible.

Leadership Academy

The first class of the West Linn Leadership Academy begins on February 8. Chris Kerr and I plan to lead most of the discussion that evening. State Representative Julie Parrish will be the key note speaker. The topic: Serving with Pride.

Attachment



CITY OF West Linn

January 31, 2012

Neil McFarlane
General Manager, TriMet
4012 SE 17th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

RE: "The Challenges and Choices Ahead" discussion

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

This letter is in response to an email from you, dated January 5, 2012, outlining the "Challenges and Choices" TriMet faces as it looks for solutions to a \$12-17 million budget shortfall. We appreciate the gravity of the economic situation facing TriMet as we struggle with similar fiscal challenges in West Linn. While I am certain that this is one of many letters you will receive from the public, municipalities, non-profit agencies and businesses, urging you to maintain existing service despite your forecasted budget shortfall, we strongly request the continuation of Route 154 – Willamette for the following reasons.

As you know, the propensity to use transit depends on a number of factors, including transit availability and reliability, accessibility, user experience and travel cost. For the past five years, the City of West Linn has been working hard to improve those functions of the transit ridership equation which are under our control. As an example, the City recently invested in pedestrian safety improvements on Blankenship Road and installed public transit shelters along Highway 43 and near the West Linn Veterans Administration (VA) Clinic. Eliminating Route 154 or increasing headways would undermine the City's efforts in this area.

New development and public services in the Route 154 service area support and depend on public transit. The City recently approved a 300,000 square-foot office complex along Route 154, which is anticipated to create significant demand for public transit. Further demand comes from the large share of West Linn's multi-family housing in this area. Route 154 is also an important link for veterans travelling between the VA Clinic (which offers service to nearly 8,000 Portland-area veterans) and other parts of the metro area. Moreover, this Route provides a critical means of access to the West Linn Food Pantry and the Willamette Historic Commercial District.

Ridership on this route has increased following new development in the area. Between 2009 and 2011, average weekday trips from the Oregon City Transit Center to the stops at 10th Street/8th Court and Blankenship Road/Tannler Drive increased by 31 and 19 trips, respectively. This increase coincides with new retail development in the area and the opening of the VA Clinic in spring 2010.

Although ridership along this route remains low compared with many of TriMet's fixed bus routes, we believe that it fills a critical gap in the region's public transit network. Furthermore, we expect

new public and private sector investment in this area to contribute to even greater demand for this service in the years ahead. We look forward to continuing to work with TriMet to promote public transit and respectfully request that you seek alternatives to the elimination of Route 154 as a means to alleviate your budget deficit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kovash", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Kovash
Mayor
City of West Linn

Cc: Charlotte Lehan; Chair, Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners