

**Appendix E: Metro Charter  
Section 5, Regional Planning Functions  
Section 27, Metro Policy Advisory Committee**

**METRO CHARTER**

Filed by the Metro Charter Committee with the elections officer of the Portland area metropolitan service district, pursuant to ORS 268.730 approved by district voters at the November 7, 1992 general election; as amended by district voters at the November 7, 2000 general election; and amended by the district voters at the May 21, 2002 primary election.

## **Section 5. Regional Planning Functions.**

### **(1) Future Vision.**

(a) **Adoption.** The council shall adopt a Future Vision for the region between January 15, 1995 and July 1, 1995. The Future Vision is a conceptual statement that indicates population levels and settlement patterns that the region can accommodate within the carrying capacity of the land, water and air resources of the region, and its educational and economic resources, and that achieves a desired quality of life. The Future Vision is a long-term, visionary outlook for at least a 50-year period. As used in this section, “region” means the Metro area and adjacent areas.

(b) **Matters addressed.** The matters addressed by the Future Vision include but are not limited to: (1) use, restoration and preservation of regional land and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations; (2) how and where to accommodate the population growth for the region while maintaining a desired quality of life for its residents; and (3) how to develop new communities and additions to the existing urban areas in well-planned ways.

(c) **Development.** The council shall appoint a commission to develop and recommend a proposed Future Vision by a date the council sets. The commission shall be broadly representative of both public and private sectors, including the academic community, in the region. At least one member must reside outside the Metro area. The commission has authority to seek any necessary information and shall consider all relevant information and public comment in developing the proposed Future Vision. The commission serves without compensation.

(d) **Review and amendment.** The Future Vision may be reviewed and amended as provided by ordinance. The Future Vision shall be completely reviewed and revised at least every fifteen years in the manner specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(e) **Effect.** The Future Vision is not a regulatory document. It is the intent of this charter that the Future Vision have no effect that would allow court or agency review of it.

### **(2) Regional Framework Plan.**

(a) **Adoption.** The council shall adopt a regional framework plan by December 31, 1997 with the consultation and advice of the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) created under section 27 of this charter. The council may adopt the regional framework plan in components.

(b) **Matters addressed.** The regional framework plan shall address: (1) regional transportation and mass transit systems; (2) management and amendment of the urban growth boundary; (3) protection of lands outside the urban growth boundary for natural resource, future urban or other uses; (4) housing densities, (5) urban design and settlement

patterns; (6) parks, open spaces and recreational facilities; (7) water sources and storage; (8) coordination, to the extent feasible, of Metro growth management and land use planning policies with those of Clark County, Washington; and (9) planning responsibilities mandated by state law. The regional framework plan shall also address other growth management and land use planning matters which the council, with the consultation and advice of the MPAC, determines are of metropolitan concern and will benefit from regional planning. To encourage regional uniformity, the regional framework plan shall also contain model terminology, standards and procedures for local land use decision making that may be adopted by local governments. As used in this section, “local” refers only to the cities and counties within the jurisdiction of Metro.

(c) **Effect.** The regional framework plan shall: (1) describe its relationship to the Future Vision; (2) comply with applicable statewide planning goals; (3) be subject to compliance acknowledgment by the Land Conservation and Development Commission or its successor; and (4) be the basis for coordination of local comprehensive plans and implementing regulations.

(d) **Amendment.** The council may amend the regional framework plan after seeking the consultation and advice of the MPAC.

(e) **Implementation.** To the maximum extent allowed by law, the council shall adopt ordinances: (1) requiring local comprehensive plans and implementing regulations to comply with the regional framework plan within three years after adoption of the entire regional framework plan. If the regional framework plan is subject to compliance acknowledgment, local plans and implementing regulations shall be required to comply with the regional framework plan within two years of compliance acknowledgment; (2) requiring the council to adjudicate and determine the consistency of local comprehensive plans with the regional framework plan; (3) requiring each city and county within the jurisdiction of Metro to make local land use decisions consistent with the regional framework plan until its comprehensive plan has been determined to be consistent with the regional framework plan. The obligation to apply the regional framework plan to local land use decisions shall not begin until one year after adoption and compliance acknowledgment of the regional framework plan; and (4) allowing the council to require changes in local land use standards and procedures if the council determines changes are necessary to remedy a pattern or practice of decision making inconsistent with the regional framework plan.

(3) **Priority and funding of regional planning activities.** The regional planning functions under this section are the primary functions of Metro. The council shall appropriate funds sufficient to assure timely completion of those functions.

(4) **Protection of Livability of Existing Neighborhoods.**

(a) **Livability Protection.** The Regional Framework Plan shall include measures to protect the livability of existing neighborhoods taking into consideration air pollution, water pollution, noise, and crime as well as provision of an adequate level of police,

fire, transportation and emergency services, public utilities, and access to parks, open space and neighborhood services.

(b) **Density Increase Prohibited**. Neither the Regional Framework Plan nor any Metro ordinance adopted to implement the plan shall require an increase in the density of single-family neighborhoods within the existing urban growth boundary identified in the plan solely as Inner or Outer Neighborhoods.<sup>1</sup>

(c) **Report on Effects of Proposed Urban Growth Boundary Amendment**. Prior to approving any amendment or amendments of the urban growth boundary in excess of 100 acres the Council shall prepare a report on the effect of the proposed amendments on existing residential neighborhoods. Copies of the completed report shall be provided to all households located within one mile of the proposed urban growth boundary amendment area and to all cities and counties within the district. The report shall address:

- i. Traffic patterns and any resulting increase in traffic congestion, commute times and air quality.
- ii. Whether parks and openspace protection in the area to be added will benefit existing residents of the district as well as future residents of the added territory.
- iii. The cost impacts on existing residents of providing needed public services and public infrastructure to the area to be added.

(d) **Implementation**. The Metro Council shall implement the requirements contained in Subsections a, b, and c within one year of adoption thereof.

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<sup>1</sup> (a) Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter is repealed on June 30, 2015 unless at the general election held in 2014, a majority of the electors voting on the question of whether or not to retain Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter as part of the Metro Charter vote to retain the subsection. If the electors vote to retain the subsection, Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter of this measure shall remain in effect. If a majority of the electors do not vote to retain Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter, then that subsection is repealed on June 30, 2015.

(b) By appropriate action of the Metro Council, the question described in subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the people for their decision at the general election held in 2014.

(c) This section is repealed on January 1, 2016.

**Section 27. Metro Policy Advisory Committee.**

(1) **Creation and composition.** The Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) is created. The initial members of the MPAC are:

(a) One member of each of the governing bodies of Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties appointed by the body from which the member is chosen;

(b) Two members of the governing body of the City of Portland appointed by that governing body;

(c) One member of the governing body of the second largest city in population in Multnomah County appointed by that governing body;

(d) One member of the governing body of the largest city in population in Washington County appointed by that governing body;

(e) One member of the governing body of the largest city in population in Clackamas County appointed by that governing body;

(f) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro area in Multnomah County other than either the City of Portland or the second largest city in population in Multnomah County, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro area in Multnomah County other than the City of Portland or the second largest city in population in Multnomah County;

(g) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro area in Washington County other than the city in Washington County with the largest population, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro area in Washington County other than the city in Washington County with the largest population;

(h) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro area in Clackamas County other than the city in Clackamas County with the largest population, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro area in Clackamas County other than the city in Clackamas County with the largest population;

(i) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro area in Multnomah County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro area in Multnomah County;

(j) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro area in Washington County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro area in Washington County;

(k) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro area in Clackamas County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro area in Clackamas County;

(l) One member of the governing body of Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon appointed by the governing body of that district; and

(m) Three persons appointed by the Council President and confirmed by the council. No person appointed under this part of subsection (1) may be an elected officer of or employed by Metro, the state, or a city, county or special district. Each person appointed under this part of subsection (1) shall reside in the Metro area during the person's tenure on the MPAC.

(2) **Change of composition.** A vote of both a majority of the MPAC members and a majority of all councilors may change the composition of the MPAC at any time.

(3) **Duties.** The MPAC shall perform the duties assigned to it by this charter and any other duties the council prescribes.

(4) **Bylaws.** The MPAC shall adopt bylaws governing the conduct and record of its meetings and the terms of its members.