



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 14, 2010
Contact: Robin Thomas
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 22, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Councillor Geoff Meggs' request to attend a workshop in Portland, Oregon, July 8 - 9, 2010

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize Councillor Meggs to attend the workshop "**Connecting Cascadia: a High-Speed Rail Vision for the Pacific Northwest**" being held at Portland Metro, July 8 - 9, 2010, at an estimated cost of \$799, to be funded from the Councillors 2010 Travel Budget; and

FURTHER THAT Councillor Meggs be granted a Leave of Absence for Civic Business from the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets and the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meetings to be held on Thursday, July 8, 2010, in order to attend the above-mentioned workshop.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits this report for Council's consideration.

COUNCIL POLICY

The City's Mayor and Council Members' Expenses By-law No 8904 requires that a Council member wishing to engage in an activity that is representing the city, engaging in city business or attending a course, meeting or convention must request Council prior approval. If Council approval is granted, the council member may claim reimbursement for expenses incurred in accordance with the By-law.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for Councillor Meggs to attend the Workshop.

Also, Council approval is requested for Councillor Meggs to be granted a leave of absence from the Standing Committee of City Services and Budgets and the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meetings scheduled for July 8, 2010.

BACKGROUND

This workshop will focus on plans to increase passenger rail traffic along the Cascadia Rail Corridor to Vancouver. It will assist the City to implement the MOUs signed with Seattle and Portland to collaborate to expand passenger rail, including an eventual high speed rail corridor. The two-day meeting is organized by America 2050, a national infrastructure and planning initiative funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. It will include federal, regional and state officials as well as planners, academics and business leaders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated costs to be funded from the 2010 Travel Budget are as follows:

Item	Estimated Costs
Airfare and Train	\$291
Two Nights Accommodation	\$278
Ground Transportation(approx)	\$ 50
Per Diem - 3 days X \$60	\$180
	\$799

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