



Audit issued on MERC Performance Measurement System

September 24, 2007

The Office of the Metro Auditor released an audit today that recommended ways the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC) could improve its performance measurement system. The audit, titled “*MERC Performance Measurement System: Strong Foundation, More Strategic Approach Needed*,” reviewed the ability of MERC to chart its progress in meeting goals.

MERC is a unit of Metro that oversees three of the region’s main public assembly facilities – the Oregon Convention Center, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center. It was established in 1989 through a consolidation agreement with Multnomah County and the City of Portland to manage public assembly facilities in the region.

The audit concluded that MERC had taken several steps towards developing a good performance measurement system. Most notably it had completed a strategic plan and recently installed new business management software. However, the audit noted that MERC needed to develop a more comprehensive set of measures that looked at more than financial targets and design reports that were easier to understand.

“I think that our audit was conducted at an opportune time,” Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn said. “Using MERC information, we were able to demonstrate the value of reporting measures in a different way. As a result, the efforts of MERC should be even stronger.” Flynn also stated that MERC had responded positively to the audit and thanked MERC and Metro management and staff who had assisted in completing the audit.

For more information contact Suzanne Flynn, Metro Auditor, at 503-797-1891.

The audit is available on the Metro website at www.metro-region.org . Copies of the audit can also be obtained by calling the Office of the Metro Auditor at 503-797-1892. The Metro Auditor will brief the Metro Council and MERC in October, 2007.