

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

2:00 PM

REVISED 2/15

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:02 p.m.

Present: 7 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

2:05 Safety Briefing

Councilor Lewis reviewed the safety procedures for the Council Chambers.

Work Session Topics:

2:10 2022-2024 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation Framework

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[Memo: RFFA Policy Summary and Response](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Ms. Margi Bradway, Mr. Dan Kaempff, and Mr. Ted Lebold. Ms. Bradway provided a brief overview of the last Council discussion regarding the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation Framework (RFFA) and introduced the agenda for the day.

Mr. Kaempff explained the four main policy objectives for the RFFA framework, including using the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) serve as the foundation for the RFFA policy framework, aligning the RTP's four priorities of equity, safety, addressing climate change and congestion relief with the priorities of RFFA, maintaining the existing two-step framework, and lastly looking at ways to better align step two of the RFFA framework with the RTP.

Ms. Bradway stated the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) would be reviewing the RFFA framework this upcoming Thursday and also reported on external stakeholder responses to the current structure. She further mentioned interest from external partners in making Step 2 of the framework and the potential for Enhanced

Transit Corridors (ETC) funding more explicit. Ms. Bradway suggested a potential step “1.5” to help cities with technical assistance for ETC projects.

Ms. Bradway added, on behalf of Metro’s partners in the research center, that there was a need for Metro to help fund the Oregon housing survey work. She emphasized the importance of the work and stated the asking as \$350,000.

Council Discussion

Councilor Dirksen conveyed his concern regarding the small amount of funding available for ETC projects and whether initiating a technical assistance program would be an efficient use of this money. Councilor Stacey explained that some fundamental aspects of ETC could be universalized, and recommended this strategy to be a good use of the ETC funding to help create a foundation plan for smaller jurisdictions to follow.

Councilor Craddick inquired whether ETC would fall under the responsibility of TriMet or Metro, and added that funding the ETC projects under the RFFA framework may shift the burden from TriMet to the cities. She also asked where the funding for the housing survey would come from within the RFFA framework.

Council President Peterson added that she would like for the housing survey to help further Metro’s commitment to increasing equity. She also inquired how it could help Metro identify the impact of the regions affordable housing efforts.

2:40 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond Development

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: Parks and Nature Bond](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Mr. Jon Blasher. Mr. Blasher stated the agenda for the discussion as to review the relative scale of investment options available, to discuss

the financial analysis of the bond, and to seek Council's feedback regarding next steps and public engagement.

Mr. Blasher provided a brief overview of potential bond renewal program investments, including urban transformation, trail acquisition and development, Metro's capital projects, local park projects, the Nature in Neighborhood grants, and land acquisition/restoration. He added that all of these investments would aim to specifically address racial equity, climate resiliency, and other program specific criteria.

Mr. Blasher noted the importance of local projects and their potential to significantly leverage state and local funding while providing substantial benefits for neighboring communities. He presented three possible scenario options for financing from 2020 to 2040 and explained the advantages and disadvantages of each option, with the key difference being a focus on regional, local, or balanced investment.

Mr. Blasher reviewed next steps regarding public engagement and asked Council for their feedback.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson asked for further clarification regarding the goal to conserve 30% of existing land for wildlife protection. Councilor Craddick inquired what the process of implementation would be for increasing taxes under any of the presented funding options.

Councilor Chase questioned if the second funding option would restrict Metro's opportunities to invest in other bonds and whether any money left over in this bond could be spent for other regional investments.

Councilor Lewis stated her support for funding option two, mainly since the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is in its initial stages and may require extra funding from this bond in the future to be implemented strategically and thoughtfully. Council President Peterson advised that the public does not want small steps of implementation, but rather big stages of vision, and thus option two may be the right package to present to the public.

Councilor Dirksen inquired if Metro was capable of identifying the projects for this bond and implementing the work within the legally required timeframe. Councilor Lewis stated that she would like to see more local projects and inclusiveness of ADA projects.

Councilor Craddick stated her support for the inclusion of land conservation objectives and inquired the depth of those investments. Mr. Blasher introduced Mr. Dan Moore to respond to the inquiry. Mr. Moore explained that to meet the 30% standard goal, we would have to increase our protected land by approximately 155,000 additional acres.

Council President Peterson inquired how other Oregon conservation efforts play into this percentage, especially since Metro was not the only contributor to this cause.

Councilor Chase added that setting a goal of a percentage of additional acres was a volume-based strategy, and instead suggested approaching the topic strategically and defining what outcomes we want to achieve with each acre. He also recommended shifting the goal of new trail construction to focus on public access rather than on the number of miles paved.

Councilor Dirksen commented on the potential conflict in outcomes when we try to restrict any urban development outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), but also limit

urban development inside the UGB for nature conservation. He suggested making areas inside the UGB livable for humans and focusing on conservation through a state-wide lens.

Councilor Stacey stated his support for land conservation efforts that encourage public access to nature within urban areas, emphasizing public ownership. Councilor Craddick advised for the parks and nature bond's outcomes to not lose sight of its initial goal to conserve and protect wildlife habitat.

Council President Peterson summarized the Council's discussion as in support of the Balanced Investments funding option with slight adjustments to investments in local projects. Mrs. Martha Bennett, Metro's Chief Operating Officer, suggested having the task force and other significant stakeholders provide their input to determine how many local share projects to invest.

3:20 Legislative Update

Council President Peterson stated that the House Bill 2020 will be having a roadshow hearing at the end of the week through Springfield, Medford, The Dales and Bend, and JPACT will also be holding an informational hearing regarding the transportation aspects of the bill next week. She noted that the Household Hazardous Waste Bill was scheduled for discussion next week before the work session, and the Rent Control Bill was expected to move to the floor of the house later this week.

Council President Peterson summarized a constituent comment she had recently received regarding the Willamette River Crossing.

3:40 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Mrs. Bennett stated the selection process for recruiting Metro's new Human Resources Director would begin on

Friday, February 22, 2019. Mrs. Bennett then reintroduced Ms. Bradway to discuss a letter drafted on behalf of Council to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) advocating for congestion pricing.

Council Discussion

Councilor Craddick inquired if adopting stronger language in the letter would be advisable and how it may be received by ODOT. Council President Peterson suggested adjusting the language to state Metro’s goals up front and to emphasize the importance of congestion pricing in relevance to Metro’s broader regional strategy.

3:50 Councilor Communication

Councilor Craddick stated that she would be out of the office on February 21 and 22, however, she will be attending the JPACT meeting on the morning of February 21.

4:00 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

EXECUTIVE SESSION, ORS 192.660 (2)(F) TO CONSIDER INFORMATION OR RECORDS THAT ARE EXEMPT BY LAW FROM PUBLIC INSPECTION AND, (H) TO CONSULT WITH COUNSEL CONCERNING THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PUBLIC BODY WITH REGARD TO CURRENT LITIGATION OR LITIGATION LIKELY TO BE FILED.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Handout	02/19/2019	Parks and Nature Bond Scenario Chart	021919cw-01
2.0	Letter	02/19/2019	Draft Value Pricing Letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission	021919cw-02
3.0	Memo	02/19/2019	Overview of Regional Policies Pertaining to Value Pricing From Grace Cho	021919cw-03