

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

2:00 PM

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 2:04 p.m.

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

2:05 Safety Briefing**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 Resiliency Work Plan

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: Resilience at Metro](#)

President Peterson introduced Ms. Sasha Pollack, Metro's Climate Resiliency Project Manager.

Ms. Pollack provided a brief overview of the history of Metro's focus on resiliency and natural disaster response planning. She defined the term resilience and how it resonates with Metro's newly initiated two-year Resilience Program. Ms. Pollack introduced the goal of this discussion as to provide Council with adequate data and information to make policy decisions and investments to further improve the resilience of our region in the face of climate change. She noted the various shocks and stressors that threaten the Metro region, including earthquakes, extreme weather patterns, volcanic activity, economic recession, and an aging infrastructure among others.

Ms. Pollack stated areas of interest needed to be addressed to create a sustainable and effective resiliency plan. She included responses to natural disasters, climate adaptation, emergency management, economic disasters, and addressing social vulnerabilities. Ms. Pollack mentioned the four phases of disaster planning as mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. She noted the focus

of the discussion to be mitigation and recovery moving forward. Ms. Pollack stated, in terms of response, that Metro's responsibility lies in responding to disaster debris.

Ms. Pollack proposed a work plan with four components, which consisted of a Resilience Assessment, an Index and Gap Analysis of current regional programs, an inventory of Metro's current resilience work, and the creation of a Metro Resilience Team. She described the Resilience Assessment, which would be a multi-faceted analysis to assist in providing updated information in identifying areas of vulnerability within the Metro region.

Ms. Pollack stated the function of the second component of the work plan, Index and Gap Analysis, as to ensure Metro leverages and expands on its current resiliency efforts to avoid duplicative work. She mentioned various regional partners including the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO), an existing partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders collaborating to increase the region's resilience to disasters.

Ms. Pollack expanded on the third component of the work plan, the index of Metro's current resiliency work, and stated the importance of consciously creating a culture of resiliency planning within the organization. She described the ties between equity and resilience, including the historically disproportionate effects of disasters on communities of color and low-income communities in comparison to their more affluent counterparts. Ms. Pollack mentioned the Metro Resilience Team and stated their purpose as to help de-silo the Resilience work and offer departmental colleagues support as needed.

She stated the next steps for the plan to hire a Resiliency Program Manager. She mentioned an upcoming budget

discussion in December as well as an upcoming report on initial resiliency assessment data. Ms. Pollack noted the plan's stakeholder engagement strategy and asked Council for their feedback on the proposed plan.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez requested for the consideration of potential climate refugees and inquired of a framework or plan which addresses the impacts of a climate disaster larger than just the Metro region. President Peterson advised for the integration of unexpected population growth from climate refugees or other economic changes to be included within Metro's 2040 Growth Refresh Plan.

Councilor Lewis suggested applying an equity lens for the social asset mapping, especially since these partners would be the most vulnerable populations in the face of a disaster. She added her excitement for the prospect of using the Metro region's barometer as a tool to gather and track data. Councilor Lewis emphasized the importance of focusing on short-term resilience planning since Metro's 2040 Growth Refresh Plan will focus on a more long-term approach and to avoid redundant work.

Councilor Dirksen stated his appreciation for the partnership with RDPO and inquired of Metro's role as a data provider in the region's resiliency planning and relation to these partners.

Councilor Craddick asked how Metro's resiliency plan may be integrated within RDPO's existing work. Ms. Pollack noted Metro had been in partnership with RDPO for many years, adding a Council member has continually participated on RDPO's Policy Committee and various Metro staff members have participated in their Steering Committee.

Councilor Chase stated his appreciation for the consideration of clean energy infrastructure. He inquired if there were ongoing conversations regarding using Metro's facilities as potential mass shelter in the face of a disaster. Ms. Pollack responded there had been conversations and agreements in place concerning facility shelters, however, there were also areas available for investigation and improvement.

Councilor Stacey addressed vulnerable infrastructure within the Metro region, including the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub and the Columbia Levee System, and inquired of disaster planning in place for these structures.

Mr. Andrew Scott, Metro's Interim Chief Operating Officer, confirmed the next steps of the plan to hire a Resiliency Program Manager.

Councilor Craddick asked of the impact of this resiliency plan on Metro's overall budget. Mr. Scott responded the Resiliency Program Manager budget had already been established by Council, however, any additional resources would be allocated following the fall budget amendment process.

2:55 Oregon Zoo Strategic Plan

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[Oregon Zoo Strategic Plan Draft](#)
[PowerPoint: Strategic Plan](#)

President Peterson introduced Ms. Sarah Keane, the Oregon Zoo's Finance Director, and Dr. Don Moore, the Zoo's Director.

Dr. Moore framed the conversation as to gain Council's policy directions and feedback on the Zoo's proposed Strategic Plan. He reviewed key priorities of the plan, including leading animal care and welfare, driving wildlife conversation, and delivering an inspiring guest experience

among others.

Dr. Moore noted Metro's organizational goals and missions and the Strategic Plan's conscious alignment to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) initiatives, improve climate-smart strategies, and establish sustainable operation practices. He mentioned the Zoo's unique position to help convene and educate the general public on DEI and climate change issue.

Dr. Moore reviewed the Zoo's community engagement efforts and the various organizations that had provided feedback during the creation of the Strategic Plan. He described community engagement practices as including a series of interviews, conducting focus groups, and gaining feedback from gallery walks, town hall meetings, and various electronic surveys. Ms. Keane reviewed the critical feedback as an interest in improving conservation work and engaging in authentic consistent community engagement. She stated the next steps as to analyze data received via the electronic surveys and designing a workshop to incorporate the feedback.

Ms. Keane addressed the necessity of including accountability in the Strategic Plan and described performance measures as including scheduled quarterly reporting, which would then be annually presented to Council and Zoo staff. Dr. Moore asked for Council's feedback and inquired if the proposed plan was adequately aligned with Metro's goals if it was comprehensive and if there were other ways in which Council would like to be involved.

Dr. Moore concluded the presentation noting that a final draft of the Strategic Plan would be presented at the October 15th Council work session.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis advised integrating a clear career ladder for Zoo staff and supporting this group of stakeholders in a differentiated manner than from volunteers. Councilor Craddick asked if there were any new upcoming conservation efforts.

Councilor Chase addressed the financial sustainability component of the plan and inquired of alternative funding resources.

President Peterson requested more information regarding the needs and requests of Zoo staff. She additionally advised for quarterly check-ins with Council to discuss Zoo-related priorities or concerns.

3:55 Regional Investment Strategy Update

Attachments: [PowerPoint: Regional Investment Strategy](#)

President Peterson introduced Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro's Director of Government Affairs and Policy Development, and Ms. Tyler Frisbee, Metro's Transportation Policy and Federal Affairs Manager.

Mr. Shaw introduced the conversation to focus on the transportation aspect of the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and to gain Council's direction on narrowing potential programs for staff to begin implementing. He reviewed the transportation program's concepts and purpose and stated where the program was currently in terms of its timeline.

Ms. Frisbee provided a brief overview of the community themes integrated within the transportation program and the feedback received from recent community engagement efforts.

Mr. Shaw stated the three identified priorities of the program as safety, equity, and climate action. Ms. Frisbee

presented the proposed projects as falling into three groups: A, B, and C. She mentioned Group A as including projects which had the Transportation Task Force and Council support and were relatively easy to administer. She described Group B as consisting of projects with have Transportation Task Force and Council support but needed more exploration for administration, and lastly Group C as including projects with Council's support and a strong alignment with Metro's goals and mission.

Ms. Frisbee introduced the projects falling within Group A, including Safe Routes to Schools, Better Bus, Safety Hot Spots, Active Transportation Connections, Transit Electrification, and Anti-displacement strategies. She added a suggestion for the consideration of anti-displacement strategies to be analyzed via individual corridor investments, rather than by project. Ms. Frisbee reviewed the programs falling into Group B as Fare Affordability for Students and Protect & Preserve Multifamily Housing. She noted potential administrative hurdles in implementing the Fare Affordability for Students project and stated more data and information would be forthcoming. Ms. Frisbee described the Group C projects as consisting of Main Streets Investment Revitalization and Future Corridor Planning.

Mr. Shaw concluded the presentation and asked Council for their feedback on supporting the program themes and proposed projects.

Council Discussion

Councilor Stacey asked for clarification on the definition of the term "hotspot" concerning the Better Bus project and general safety improvements. Ms. Frisbee responded hotspots in terms of Better Bus would be areas in which transit is bottlenecked or improvements could be made to shorten travel times, whereas, in the context of safety,

hotspots refer to areas in which lighting, security, or other aspects could be improved to increase constituent comfort in using transit in these areas. Councilor Stacey emphasized the importance of having identified and controlled intersections for pedestrian crossers in wide-artillery ways.

Councilor Gonzalez requested clarification on a transportation-oriented trail in comparison to a natural trail and what indicators were used to distinguish between the two.

Councilor Lewis inquired if the Transit Electrification project would be connector eligible.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired if funding from the program would be used for retrofitting existing diesel buses. He asked how Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) could be further encouraged through the propose project investments or the transportation measure as a whole.

Councilor Lewis advised being cognizant of potential displacement impacts when implementing multifamily housing investments. She relayed interest from constituents in her district to prioritize transit service frequency over fare affordability. Councilor Dirksen added his district's interest in prioritizing transit service frequency over transit electrification as well. Councilor Stacey advised being wary of the tradeoff between reducing fares and increasing transit services since fares provide a portion of the funding to build future services and to expand existing ones. Councilor Gonzalez addressed the need for further conversations with Metro's school district partners and community partners to gain feedback on the feasibility of implementing a fare affordability program for students.

Councilor Craddick inquired of how the 2017 Housing Bill would work in congruence with the proposed transportation program on multifamily housing services.

President Peterson suggested changing the title of Future Corridor Planning to include “and Studies”.

Councilor Stacey stated his appreciation for the Main Streets Investment Revitalization project due to its inclusion of local community engagement and financial investment.

Councilor Chase inquired of how many of the proposed projects would be feasible in terms of funding and implementing to completion. He asked how the projects may complement each other to maximize a positive impact on the Metro region's overall transit system. Councilor Chase suggested investigating opportunities for the Protect & Preserve Multifamily Housing project to be supported by or integrated into Metro’s other existing housing initiatives.

President Peterson noted the importance of conversing with local jurisdictions regarding the potential political, technical, and financial risk of the transportation measure and sited her gratitude for Metro’s staff work in this area thus afar.

4:25 Chief Operating Officer Communications

Attachments: [PowerPoint: Visitor Facilities Intergovernmental Agreement & Visitor Facilities Trust Account](#)

Mr. Scott provided an update on Metro’s Chief Operating Officer Recruitment process. He introduced Mr. Shaw to provide an overview of the Visitor Facility Intergovernmental Agreement (VFIA) and its current status.

Mr. Shaw reviewed the history of the VFIA and the establishment of the Visitor Facility Trust Account (VFTA) through this agreement. He noted the four high-level priorities of the agreement to improve visitor facilities, attract new businesses and conventions, to help address liability and homelessness within the Portland region, and to ensure adequate reserves were in place to sustainably fund visitor venues in the upcoming years.

Mr. Shaw reviewed the process through which funding was distributed from the VFTA and introduced proposed amendments to the existing funding buckets. He noted the additions of the Veterans Memorial Coliseum Renovation and the Portland's Centers for the Arts Renovation Bonds to the Debt Services for Facility Bonds section of the VFTA. Mr. Shaw mentioned the inclusion of three other buckets to the Support for Operations, Programs, Services, and Marketing section of the agreement, including the Portland Expo Operations Support, the Livability, and Safety Support Services, and its additional counterpart. He described the changes to the final section of the VFTA, the Revenue Stabilization Reserves, and distinguished between the strategic and general reserves.

Mr. Shaw explained the current governance process in place to respond to a possible economic downturn or recession. He stated the issue that had rose during previous discussions to finalize the proposed agreement amendments was concerning this governance structure.

Mr. Shaw mentioned additional conversations between partners surrounding the agreement's tax systems cost recovery process.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzales inquired if there was a luxury lodging tax or any similar tier system for hotel taxes. He asked for clarification on the Veterans Memorial Coliseum Renovation project and its intentions.

President Peterson noted the purpose of the VFIA presentation as to provide Council with a base understanding of the scenario in preparation for upcoming discussions and eventually adoption of the amended

agreement. She added Multnomah County had planned to adopt the amended agreement the following week.

Councilor Stacey inquired of Metro's role in the discussions surrounding the agreement's tax systems cost recovery process.

4:30 Councilor Communication

Councilor Dirksen noted his attendance at the Railvolution conference in Vancouver B.C, Canada and summarized the event's agenda and his experience.

4:35 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	9/17/2019	Resilience at Metro	091719cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	9/17/2019	Strategic Plan	091719cw -02
3.0	PowerPoint	9/17/2019	Regional Investment Strategy	091719cw-03
4.0	PowerPoint	9/17/2019	Visitor Facilities Intergovernmental Agreement & Visitor Facilities Trust Account	091719cw-04
5.0	Handout	9/17/2019	Oregon Zoo Strategic Plan Draft	091719cw-05