

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 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 2:01 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**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 Emerging Technology PILOT Program Updates

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: Emergin Technology PILOT Program](#)

President Peterson introduced Mr. Eliot Rose, Technology Strategist at Metro, and Mr. Ted Leybold, Planning Manager.

Mr. Rose provided an overview of the purpose of his presentation as to update Council on the feedback received from the first round of the Partnerships and Innovative Learning Opportunities in Transportation (PILOT) Program. He described three primary questions the program was intended to help answer: How do we meet our regional transportation goals? How should we approach emerging technology? How do we guide innovation?

Mr. Rose provided an overview of emerging technologies and noted micro-transit, car-sharing, electric vehicles (EVs), bike/scooter sharing and travel information and payment as particularly important since they are the ones currently available in the Metro region. He stated the emerging technology policy priorities to provide choices, equity, information, and innovation for the public.

Mr. Rose introduced Metro's two-year emerging technology plan which included four components: the PILOT program, new data and tools, regional policy coordination, and state

and federal policy advocacy. He mentioned the goals of the PILOT program to test new approaches to improve transportation using emerging technology, to collect information, and to develop partnerships. Mr. Rose described the program's structure and the selection process through which projects were chosen to be funded.

Mr. Rose introduced the 2019 PILOT projects like the New Mobility at the Orchards of 82nd, Latinx Ride Share Promotion, East Portland transit Appliance, and Trip Planning for All. He stated all of the projects had just started implementation, with most focusing on their initial stakeholder engagement process.

Mr. Rose reviewed the feedback provided by participants of the program's first round. He noted the engagement of private sector partners, public sector partners, and non-profit organizations with the program, mentioning that the non-profit sector had increased their participation over time. Mr. Rose described the outcomes the projects were trying to achieve and noted their success in improving equitable access, providing new shared/active transportation options, and providing better travel information and incentives. He addressed the lack of projects focused on improving connections to transit and highlighted it as an area of improvement for the next round of the program. Mr. Rose relayed feedback provided by local community partners, who stated the main challenges facing them as a lack of resources and capacity.

He reviewed the two options available for Phase 2 of the program: Option 1 to stay the current course and Option 2 to expand the program. Mr. Rose explained the financial impact of each option and potential funding sources available if the program were to be expanded.

Mr. Rose presented questions for discussion regarding the

program priorities and potential for expansion and asked Council for their feedback.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis stated her support for increasing the program's funding and scope of work beyond the immediate Portland area. She inquired of the potential for micro-delivery and last-mile delivery projects, especially through an equitable workforce lens. Councilor Lewis asked about avenues through which learnings and feedback from the PILOT program could be shared with the state government and other jurisdictions.

Councilor Craddick suggested including climate as one of the emerging tech policy priorities. She inquired of the potential for Uber or Lyft to engage an electric fleet. Councilor Dirksen stated his concerns for if the PILOT program projects were scalable to the larger Metro region for future implementation. Councilor Stacey suggested including electric freight trucks as a potential area for exploration for the next round of proposed projects.

Councilor Gonzalez advocated for the application of a more regional perspective on the program projects and noted the importance of addressing the first-last mile of transit. Councilor Chase emphasized the innovation aspect of the program priorities and noted the difficulties in equitably and fairly distributing resources throughout the Metro region.

President Peterson addressed the program outcomes innovation and information, stating these were project requirements for the program rather than measured outcomes. She suggested including a stronger focus on racial equity and climate change for the outcomes. President Peterson noted one of Metro's roles in this program to coordinate the implementation of successful projects on a

larger scale. She inquired if the funding source for the program and asked where funding for program expansions may come from. Mr. Lebold responded the funding for the PILOT project grants were sourced from Metro's general fund, meanwhile, staff time for the program was funded through the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) contributions.

Councilor Dirksen advised for program expansion to also take into consideration an expansion of partners rather than just funding.

2:40 Southwest Corridor Light Rail Update

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint: SouthWest Corridor](#)

Councilor Dirksen introduced the intention of the presentation as to consult with Council on the impending recommendations by the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee, for which Councilor Dirksen is a Metro liaison. He stated the committee had been grappling with various options to help reduce project costs and adverse impacts along the Lightrail route, including potentially ending the Lightrail short of the Bridgeport Village stop, reducing auto lanes along Barbur Boulevard, or instead seek additional state and local funding.

President Peterson introduced Ms. Malu Wilkinson, Planning Investment Areas Manager at Metro, and Mr. Chris Ford, Principle Regional Planner.

Ms. Wilkinson provided a brief history of the Southwest Corridor Project and noted the project as currently in the middle of its design phase, completing an environmental review process. She stated the significance of this project in linking job centers and filling an existing transit gap in the region.

Ms. Wilkinson introduced Mr. Brian Harper, Senior Regional Planner at Metro. Mr. Harper described the project's equitable development strategy, stating its goal as to ensure that residents of the Southwest Corridor have access to the opportunities that project will bring while also addressing the impacts associated with this major infrastructure investment. He noted the project oversight committee, who were charged with identifying the communities and individuals who may be most adversely impacted and to ensure diverse voices were involved in the decision-making process.

Mr. Harper provided a brief overview of the Southwest Corridor Projects goals, including to address residential and business displacement, preserve and expand affordable housing, and to advance economic opportunity for all and build community capacity for wealth creation, among others. He emphasized the importance of creating a collective response with collaboration among regional and local partners to address the aforementioned goals and to support implementation. Mr. Harper mentioned Unite Oregon, who recently received a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust for this project, would be taking the lead in implementing the equitable development strategy over the next two years. He recognized the City of Tigard, City of Portland, and TriMet for their contributions to the next phase of the equitable development strategy.

Mr. Ford provided a brief overview of the Southwest Corridor Project and its features, which is expected to support 39,000 riders a day along 11 miles of light rail. He noted additional benefits of the project as adding new sidewalks and bike lanes and expanding stormwater treatment to new areas. Mr. Ford mentioned the design concept had been updated to 15% and includes greater detail and more accurate cost estimates. He described the current funding assumptions for the projects as totaling

\$2.375 billion and detailed an expected the \$462 million increase in project costs following the updated design and risk estimates. Mr. Ford stated various options to fill the funding gap, including narrowing Barbur Boulevard, shorten the light rail path, and/or find more funding at the state or local level.

Mr. Ford reviewed the next steps of the project to complete the conceptual design report, to continue with ongoing environmental work, and to work with partners to implement the equitable development strategy. He posed policy questions for discussion and asked Council for their feedback.

Council Discussion

Councilor Craddick requested clarification regarding how much more funding was needed for the project to be implemented as proposed. Councilor Dirksen responded with \$93 million. Councilor Stacey addressed the two through-lanes on Barbur Boulevard and noted the opportunities to leave a smaller footprint while keeping the four lanes through efficient and concise urban design.

Councilor Lewis stated her support for having the light rail extension to Bridgeport Village as it would provide a larger number of transit opportunities for the constituents of District 2.

President Peterson stated her appreciated for the equitable development strategy and the increased level of community engagement within the Southwest Corridor Project. She noted her support for the presented alternative options, however, she advised for future projects to explore increasing capacity through traffic engineering.

3:25 Regional Investment Strategy Update

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

President Peterson introduced Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro's Director of Government Affairs and Policy Development.

Mr. Show provided a brief update on Metro's Affordable Housing Bond, noting the upcoming adoption of Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) with the City of Beaverton, Clackamas County, and Washington County on November 21st and December 5th. He emphasized the significance of this milestone and stated the IGAs would set forth the terms and conditions under which the Metro Housing Bond funding would be dispersed to partners for eligible program activities. Mr. Shaw reviewed the next steps of Metro's #GetMoving2020 transportation measure, including a Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting on November 13th and a Council work session on November 19th to provide an update on the Tier 1 transportation projects.

He noted the adoption of the Parks and Nature bond by the voters on November 5th with the overall support of 66.78%. Mr. Shaw introduced Mr. Jon Blasher, Metro's Parks and Nature Director, to provide more information on the next steps of the measure. Mr. Blasher noted Metro staff would be completing internal scoping for the implementation of the bond measure throughout the month of November. He described the next step as a Council work session scheduled in late January to refine the work plan and solidify a community engagement process and timeline.

3:55 Chief Operating Officer Communication

President Peterson introduced Mr. Andrew Scott, Acting Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Scott provided an update on the recent fire at the Metro South Transfer Station, stating that the incident had been appropriately handled and everyone had been safely evacuated. He added the cause of the fire was still under investigation but is suspected to be a lithium battery.

Mr. Scott mentioned upcoming CPR and First Aid training available for Metro staff members and noted the opening of the Louisa Flowers, an affordable apartment building created by Metro’s partners at Home Forward. He encouraged staff to welcome the new tenants by either attending the grand opening or contributing to the welcome baskets with the purchase of household items.

4:00 Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis noted upcoming resolutions regarding appointments to the Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity on the November 21st Council meeting agenda.

President Peterson provided a reminder of an offsite Council budget session on November 14th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. She stated she would be out of the office in the upcoming weeks to attend meetings in New York and Washington D.C. to discuss Metro’s regional transportation measure.

President Peterson introduced a memo creating by Metro staff regarding the process for creating a new Metro bond or measure to take to the ballot.

4:05 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	11/12/2019	Emerging Technology PILOT Program	111219cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	11/12/2019	Southwest Corridor	111219cw-02
3.0	PowerPoint	11/12/2019	Regional Investment Strategy	111219cw-03
4.0	Handout	11/12/2019	Opportunities in equitable development: Southwest Corridor	111219cw-04
5.0	Handout	11/12/2019	Memo re. Estimated Measure Formation Scope and Resources	111219cw-05