

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council President Sam Chase called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:01 p.m.

Present: 5 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Christine Lewis

Excused: 2 - Councilor Craig Dirksen, and Lynn Peterson

2:05 Safety Briefing

Deputy President Chase introduced Councilor Gonzalez to provide a safety briefing. Councilor Craddick noted she would be leaving at 3:15 p.m. to attend the Southwest Washington's Regional Transportation Council Meeting in Vancouver, WA.

Work Session Topics:

2:10 Recycling Update

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[Attachment A: Recyclables](#)
[Attachment B: Mattresses](#)
[Attachment C: Timeline](#)
[Attachment D: Single-Use Food Service Items](#)
[Attachment D: Systemic Changes](#)
[Attachment D: Mattresses and Currently Hard-to-Recycle Plastics](#)
[PowerPoint: Recycling System Improvements](#)

Deputy President Chase introduced Mr. Matt Korot, Metro's Resource Conservation & Recycling Program Director and Ms. Pam Peck, Property and Environmental Services Manager.

Mr. Korot provided a brief overview of Council's previous discussion regarding the current recycling system. He noted the challenges facing the system as loss of and/or changes to what is accepted by international end markets and rapid changes in the types of product packaging. Mr. Korot

mentioned opportunities within the system as materials continuing to be recycled, potential private and public investment, and the emergence of new domestic end markets for paper. He described the objective of today's presentation to provide an update on regional and statewide work to strengthen the recycling system and to solicit feedback from Council on future engagement.

Mr. Korot summarized the program's current objectives as to continue to collaborate in a statewide process, to research action options for implementation, to set a public-private partnership in place, and to provide more information regarding recyclables other than curbside materials for the public.

He noted three focus areas as single-use foodservice items, systematic changes in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) performance standards, and mattresses and other hard-to-recycle plastics. Mr. Korot provided an overview of the timeline for implementation for the presented focus areas and described the overlap between action items.

Ms. Peck defined single-use foodservice items as including small items such as stirrers and utensils and plastic takeout boxes. She described the two proposed actions within this focus area: the first would require single-use foodservice items to be provided by request and the second would implement a ban on single-use foodservice take-out packaging that cannot be recycled in local programs.

Ms. Peck addressed the second focus area of systematic changes for EPR and MRF performance standards. She described the first suggested action as to enact regional producer responsibility requirements for common packaging items. Ms. Peck mentioned the second action as to continue to support MRF system improvements through

the Investment and Innovation program while adopting improved performance standards such as sorting outcomes and end-market certifications.

Ms. Peck delved into the third focus area of mattresses and currently hard-to-recycle plastics, stating the first proposed action item as to will enact regional producer responsibility requirements and a disposal ban for mattresses if Legislature does not do so in 2020. She noted the second action item as pass legislation to establish a robust depot and mobile collection system for Styrofoam and other currently hard-to-recycle plastics.

Ms. Peck provided further detail on the implementation costs, key stakeholders, and scale of impact of each focus area and associated actions.

Mr. Korot introduced two questions for Council feedback: Which actions should staff begin to develop and implement? Are the timetables for the associated actions appropriate?

Council Discussion

Councilor Stacey inquired of the adverse effects implementing the action items may have on local businesses and other economic participants.

Councilor Gonzalez asked of the end-markets available to the Metro region and potential partners for implementing hard-to-recycle plastic recycling. He inquired of tools that may be available to ensure compliance during the implementation of the program.

Councilor Lewis requested for more engagement and research regarding the single-use foodservice items policy, advising to be wary of potential negative impacts on the foodservice industry, the medical industry, and the

homeless population. She stated her support for addressing styrofoam and hard-to-recycle plastics as a top priority. Councilor Lewis noted her concern regarding the timeline for the mattress legislation at the state level. Mr. Korot responded the mattress bill was expected to be reintroduced in the upcoming legislative session with support from many partners and jurisdictions.

Deputy President Chase inquired of the stakeholder engagement process for each action item, emphasizing the importance of partnering with local communities and businesses to reduce adverse effects of implementation. He asked if there was potential for including items in the program that had previously been excluded from composting policies, such as cardboard boxes and other biodegradable items. Mr. Korot noted the reasoning behind the choice to exclude the aforementioned materials from composts, such as the increased likelihood for constituents to compost items that are not biodegradable but may seem similar or related. Councilor Chase inquired if there was a certification to encourage facilities to use biodegradable products.

Councilor Craddick inquired if industries other than food services, such as the marijuana or lodging sectors, may be integrated into this system update in the future. She additionally noted her support for providing the state an opportunity to pass relative legislation before Metro taking action on subjects such as mattress recycling.

Councilor Lewis inquired of the policy development process before the adoption of the performance standards for MRF's, noting the absence of an intermediate timeline.

Councilor Craddick inquired if there were new technologies or recycling processes that may be brought to the Metro region to increase this program's efforts and to potentially

create new economic opportunities.

2:55 Legislative Agenda

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[Metro Council 2019 Legislative Principles](#)

Deputy President Chase introduced Mr. Randy Tucker, Metro's Legislative Affairs Manager, and Ms. Anneliese Koehler, Regional and State Affairs Advisor.

Mr. Tucker introduced the Council's legislative principles draft for 2019 and requested for their feedback.

Mr. Tucker stated the Household Hazardous Waste Bill (House Bill 2772 A) was not expected to return in the 2020 legislative session. He noted TriMet would not be introducing a bill regarding Southwest Corridor Project for the upcoming legislative session, however, the project is ensured to make an appearance in suture sessions. Mr. Tucker provided an update on legislation regarding a regional vehicle registration fee, which would assist Metro in funding its transportation measure if passed.

Mr. Tucker mentioned the Willamette Falls Locks Project, stating it would be reconsidered in the 2020 legislative session once the question of ownership was resolved as per a budget note. He addressed housing legislation, including House Bills 2001 and 2003, which have minor technical revisions and policy updates that are expected to be addressed in the upcoming session.

Mr. Tucker provided a brief background on House Bill 4145 regarding transient-lodging tax rates, stating that in 2016 the legislation had increased the transient-lodging tax from 1% to 1.8% with an agreement to reduce the tax again after four years in 2020. He relayed ongoing discussion regarding whether to move forward with tax reduction in the 2020 legislative session and noted more information was to come.

Mr. Tucker mentioned various proposed legislation regarding carbon, with the Cap-and Invest Bill (House Bill 2020) taking top priority. He stated the current primary objective as to ensure that an appropriate portion of dollars are directed back to the region to fund Metro's Climate Smart strategies if a cap-and-invest program is established. Mr. Tucker noted a recent resolution passed unanimously by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) which endorsed appropriate allocation of funds if a cap-and-invest program was implemented.

Mr. Tucker noted an upcoming resolution regarding Council's legislative priorities and principles in January of 2020 and requested for Council's feedback.

Council Discussion

Councilor Stacey inquired of any changes to the Southwest Corridor Project's larger funding strategy.

Councilor Lewis described her top priority for the upcoming legislative session as carbon.

Councilor Chase addressed the transient-lodging tax, stating his interest in alternative strategies to the one proposed currently. He advised being alert for any opportunities in housing legislation that may help support the Metro region's affordable housing initiatives or support services.

3:25 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy President Chase introduced Mr. Scott Cruickshank, Metro's Acting Deputy Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Cruickshank stated Metro's Community Placemaking Grants, a program designed to help people tackle community challenges or opportunities through arts-based, equity-focused projects, was now accepting applications

through February 3, 2020. He mentioned upcoming training and leadership opportunities for Metro employees, including an upcoming training provided by LearnPoint.

Mr. Cruickshank noted an upcoming change in security protocol for the Metro Regional Center (MRC) building, for which staff badges or visitor passes will be required for entry.

3:30 Councilor Communication

3:35 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Deputy Council President Sam Chase adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	12/3/2019	Recycling System Improvements	120319cw-01