

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2020

5:30 PM

Metro Council Public Hearing on Transportation

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

Council meeting

1. Open House in Room 370A/B**2. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

3. Safety Briefing

The Council played a safety briefing video that included information on the location of emergency exits, fire extinguishers, and automated external defibrillators.

4. Presentations**4.1 Regional Transportation Measure**

Council President Peterson called on Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro staff, and Commissioner Pam Treece, Transportation Task Force Co-Chair, to introduce the public hearing. Mr. Shaw gave an overview of the public process to date, including over 19,000 points of engagement and 16 Transportation Task Force meetings. He explained that on December 18, the Task Force completed their set of recommendations.

Commissioner Treece reviewed the Task Force's work and highlighted that 99% of the recommendations were of unanimous consensus. She explained that this consensus highlighted the shared priorities and values of the region's communities.

4.1.1 Public Hearing on Regional Transportation Measure

Council President Peterson then opened the public hearing on the transportation measure and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak.

Kem Marks, Rosewood Initiative: Mr. Marks spoke in favor

of the Task Force's recommendations. He expressed support for the significant investments in safety and livable spaces.

Commissioner Jerry Willey, Washington County:

Commissioner Willey expressed support for the recommendations and highlighted the importance of investment into areas such as TV Highway and 185th. He noted that he looked forward to further comment on the Tier 2 Corridors, including Highway 17, 217, Highway 99W, and US 26.

Jan Zweerts, District 5: Mr. Zweerts, of the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation and Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, urged the Council to include funding for the Washington Park and Oregon Zoo railway to restore service to Rose Garden.

Commissioner Paul Savas, Clackamas County: Commissioner Savas expressed concerns about the public and local jurisdictions' lack of meaningful or informed opportunity to participate in the T2020 process. He also requested more funding for the Sunrise Project.

Chris Smith, District 5: Mr. Smith requested more analysis of the climate impacts of the proposed plan. He noted that any investments that would add additional single occupancy vehicle miles must be carefully scrutinized. He highlighted that the frame for the package should be refocused on the climate resilience of the region.

Council President Brett Sherman, City of Happy Valley:

Council President Sherman spoke in favor of the Clackamas-to-Columbia (C2C) Connector Project. He explained that the corridor had immense impacts on

transportation throughout the region.

Rae Blackbird, District 5: Blackbird, of Sunrise PDX, testified on the importance of addressing climate change. They requested that no more funding be provided for road projects focused on serving cars. They highlighted the importance of reducing emissions.

Alejandra Gallegos, District 6: Ms. Gallegos, of the Youth Environmental Justice Alliance, testified in support of including youth transit passes in the measure. She noted that over 50 percent of East Portland high-schoolers use public transit and urged the Council to consider transit-dependent youth's needs.

Alice: Alice spoke in favor of building the Lake Oswego to Oak Grove Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge to allow better access across the river.

Kayse Jama, District 5: Mr. Jama, of Unite Oregon, spoke in support of an investment that would deliver the maximum benefit for the region's communities. He noted that Unite Oregon strongly supported enhanced transit corridors. He shared concerns about the Airport Way and C2C projects, noting that Unite Oregon believed in investment around public transportation and safety rather than expanding roads.

Hans Tschersick, Clackamas County: Mr. Tschersick, of the Clackamas County Pedestrian and Bicycle Way Advisory Committee, spoke in support of the Lake Oswego to Oak Grove Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge.

Mayor Jason Snider, City of Tigard: Mayor Snider spoke in support of funding for the SW Corridor project. He

requested the regional transportation investment include funding for a comprehensive transportation and land use study for the 99W Corridor from Tigard to Sherwood.

Colin Herring, Clackamas County: Herring, of Sunrise PDX, spoke in favor of the Getting There Together coalition's proposed recommendations related to the C2C corridor project and public transit on McLoughlin Boulevard.

Hank Stowers, District 5: Mr. Stowers spoke in support of prioritizing equitable transportation infrastructure, with a focus on public transit, rather than congestion fixes. He also spoke to the importance of including anti-displacement efforts.

Kari Schlosshauer, District 6: Ms. Schlosshauer, of the Safe Routes partnership, spoke in support of the Getting There Together coalition's recommendations. She noted that Safe Routes believed the measure must target transportation investments in corridors that most impact underserved communities; provide safe, accessible, and affordable options to those in need; and drastically reduce emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

Ashley Henry, District 6: Ms. Henry, of Business for a Better Portland, noted the importance of significant investments in the region's transportation system, but encouraged the Metro Council to investigate and analyze each project's projected outcome. She shared concerns about potentially limited impacts on mode shift, vehicle miles travelled, and green-house gas reduction.

Jude Gerace, City of Portland: Gerace spoke in favor of the Tier 1 investments. They noted that single use vehicles were not sustainable given the current climate crisis and

encouraged the Metro Council to focus on enhanced transit corridors.

Jillian Detweiller, City of Portland: Ms. Detweiller, Executive Director of the Street Trust, spoke in favor of the Tier 1 projects and emphasized the importance of improving public transportation and addressing mode shift.

Charles Ormsby, District 2: Mr. Ormsby spoke in favor of providing inter-regional maps, travel shed maps, and maps of the southern metro area to visualize congestion.

Caroline Crisp, Multnomah County: Crisp, of the Street Trust, expressed support for the Vision Zero plan for 82nd Avenue and requested that the Metro Council prioritize transforming that corridor for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

Liz Yurkov, District 6: Yurkov, of Sunrise PDX, spoke about traffic violence, noting that it was an epidemic that disproportionately impacted the vulnerable: low-income residents, the elderly, children, those experiencing homelessness, and the transit-dependent. Yurkov requested that the measure focus on efficient, equitable public transportation as well as more and safer bike lanes.

Terry Parker, District 5: Mr. Parker explained that the measure was missing equity for motorists that pay transportation taxes. He noted that he felt congestion, fuel consumption, and emissions increase when motor vehicle capacity is reduced.

Aaron Brown, District 5: Mr. Brown, of Getting There Together, spoke in favor of addressing the climate crisis and testified against any further highway expansion projects.

Ron Swaren, City of Portland: Mr. Swaren shared concerns about misspending tax payer dollars.

Walter Robinson II, District 5: Mr. Robinson, of the Getting There Together coalition, spoke in favor of the group's recommendations and urged the Metro Council to fund projects that would last for generations.

Mikhaila Bishop, District 2: Bishop, of Sunrise PDX, expressed the importance of addressing climate change and requested better transit to and from Clackamas County as part of a larger focus on climate justice initiatives.

Brett Morgan, District 2: Mr. Morgan, of the Getting There Together coalition, spoke in favor of transit investments. He highlighted the importance of effective land use and efficient, accessible public transportation.

Kent Wu, City of Portland: Mr. Wu expressed support for investing in expanding and improving public transportation and pedestrian safety, as identified by organizations such as the Getting There Together coalition. He urged the Council to support a fareless transit system as part of these efforts.

Jesse Lopez, District 6: Lopez, on behalf of 350PDX, urged the Metro Council to fund safety and transit projects, and to remove projects from the measure that focused on building more roads and highway infrastructure.

Ray Atkinson, Clackamas County: Mr. Atkinson spoke in support of projects focused on public transit, pedestrian pathways, and bike lanes. He also noted that he was in favor of building the Lake Oswego to Oak Grove Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge.

Tracy Farwell, District 6: Mr. Farwell, of Engineers for a Sustainable Future, testified against TriMet's proposed diesel bus service. He proposed cutting diesel pollution and focusing on electric, zero emission vehicles.

Nate Orton, District 2: Orton testified in favor of funding for the Lake Oswego to Oak Grove Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge project.

Stephanie Noll, District 5: Ms. Noll, on behalf of the Oregon Trails Coalition, spoke in favor of funding trails in the transportation measure and centered safety, climate, and equity.

Cliff Lehman, City of Portland: Mr. Lehman expressed his support for a fareless public transit system and also recommended a demand-driven, computer-dispatched passenger van system to fill in transportation gaps in the region.

Daniel Kaufman, District 6: Mr. Kaufman, of Livable Streets Action, expressed his opposition to any further automobile subsidization, including funding for highway expansions and additional lanes.

Mike Weston, City of King City: Mr. Weston, City Manager of King City, testified on the city's behalf and requested support for west side transportation corridors, specifically the Southwest Corridor and the Highway 99W Corridor Study. He asked that the Metro Council consider elevating these projects to Tier 1.

Gerritt Rosenthal, District 3: Mr. Rosenthal expressed support for the measure and its public process. He

expressed a need for additional overarching principles within the measure to outline its larger, system-wide goals.

Emily Guise, City of Portland: Guise, of BikeLoud PDX, expressed support for expanding the region's biking, walking, and transit options, in order to expand access to opportunities for all. Guise also expressed opposition to including the Airport Way overpass and C2C projects in the measure.

Edith Gillis, District 6: Ms. Gills asked the Metro Council to support projects that focused on providing clean, safe transit to all neighborhoods. She expressed opposition to diesel-powered vehicles and urged the Council to consider climate and public health needs.

Ted Labbe, District 6: Mr. Labbe, Executive Director of Urban Green Spaces Institute, expressed support for the Getting There Together coalition's recommendations. He asked that additional funding be included in the measure to support regional youth transit passes, Safe Routes to Schools, anti-displacement measures, habitat connectivity, and more.

Joe Cortright, District 5: Cortright encouraged the Metro Council to make stronger efforts to address the climate crisis in the measure. He shared concerns that the proposed measure would not do enough to protect future generations.

Susan Bladholm, District 3: Ms. Bladholm, Founder of Friends of Frog Ferry, spoke in favor of bringing a public passenger ferry service to the region, to improve transportation options between Portland and Vancouver.

Kasandra Griffin, City of Portland: Ms. Griffin, Executive Director of the Community Cycling Center, spoke in favor of the Getting There Together coalition's recommendations. She spoke out against expanding highways and urge the Council to focus on sustainable transportation investments.

Haley Dallas, District 5: Dallas spoke in favor of investments that prioritized green infrastructure and improved bike and pedestrian safety. They testified in opposition to new highway and roadway lanes, including the proposed Airport Way project.

Robert Rose, City of Lake Oswego: Mr. Rose testified in favor of funding for the Lake Oswego to Oak Grove Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge project.

Pat Jewett, City of Portland: Ms. Dewitt spoke in favor of supporting pedestrian safety by building more sidewalks and improving infrastructure.

Adam Fractor: Mr. Fractor spoke against highway expansion projects and expressed support for projects such as the Albina Vision project and a MAX tunnel study.

Council President Peterson thanked everyone for their testimony and gavelled out of the public hearing. She highlighted the importance of the measure's public engagement process and the impacts the measure could have on the region. She also acknowledged Mr. Luis Medina and Mr. Jayden Auberry, two Gresham youth killed in traffic accidents in recent weeks, and led the room in a moment of silence in their honor.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The Metro Council will

convene the next regular council meeting on January 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2020

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
4.1.1	Testimony	01/13/20	Written testimony received for public hearing	011320c-01