



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

# Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting  
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020  
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Place: Virtual meeting via Zoom

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## Attendees

**Co-Chairs:** Tristan Penn, Martine Coblentz

**CORE Members:** Tristan Penn, Martine Coblentz, Saara Hirsi, Laura John, Patricia Kepler, Dele Oyemaja, Nura Elmagbari, Karla Hernandez, Katie Sawicki

**MERC Commissioners:** Dañel Malán, Karis J.A. Stoudamire-Phillips

**CORE Liaisons:** Metro Councilor Craddick, Metro Councilor Lewis

**Metro staff:** Raahi Reddy, Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Melissa Palavecino, Reed Brodersen, Nathan Sykes, Margi Bradway, Craig Beebe

**Absent:** Effie Bustamante, Mahmood Jawad, Maria Magallon, Quincy Brown, Daniela Ortiz, Duncan Hwang

## Welcome and Overview of the day

Tristan welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the day. Melissa shared information about how to use Zoom.

## Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

## Committee Business & Updates

Katie: Reminder to get connected if folks are interested in plugging into the Defund, reinvest campaign

Raahi: Metro has made Juneteenth a Holiday

Patricia: PCC has also recognized Juneteenth

## Minutes

March: Tristan moved, Nura seconds

Votes in favor: 7

Abstained: 1 (Karla)

Opposed: 0

April: Patricia moved, Tristan seconds

Votes in favor: 7

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

May: Dele moved, Tristan seconds

Votes in favor: 7

Abstained: 1 (Karla)

Opposed: 0

### **Get Moving 2020 – Part 3 – Accountability & Oversight**

*Presenters: Margi Bradway, Deputy Director – Planning & Development Sebrina Owens-Wilson  
Program Manager – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

The February CORE meeting focused on the Get Moving 2020 transportation investment measure and received an overview of the projects and programs in the measure and CORE provided feedback on the programs. Last month CORE discussed the anti-displacement program. Now CORE will focus on accountability and oversight and how this measure will advance racial equity.

Nura: Whenever we see investment brought into an area, which results in an improvement in the area, we see one of two things happen. 1. The area becomes more expensive and those who currently live there may struggle to keep up. 2. Gentrification. How will we avoid these things from happening so that the communities of color that live in the investment regions can remain there?

Response: We're using the SWEDS model. \$9 million combined for affordable housing and community-driven investments in anti-displacement. We're committed to allowing communities tailor these to their needs. Assessment of all the levers you can pull, and researching how well or not strategies are working

Follow up question: Are we committing to building skills (education) to help build long-term community resiliency?

Laura: I would recommend removing the "multi-racial" chart on the previous slide. Rather disaggregate that data out. The multi-racial statistic tends to wash out the American Indian/Alaska Native numbers. I am sure that it washes out other groups as well (e.g. Pacific Islander, etc.). The data around Native Americans is especially problematic. Lack of disaggregation erases Indigenous people especially. This only refers to political designation, we should be able to disaggregate by tribal affiliation.

Danel: safe sidewalks and bike lanes should take priority, since people have gotten lax during start at home orders, and will be less aware than they used to be, when phase 2 happens.

Response by Margi: Safety is a huge priority

Follow up comment: Is 65% in COC enough?

Patricia: We know that the increasing cost of living in Portland is pushing people of color out to outlying areas. How current is your data on where people of color are living?

Response: We are using the 2017 ACS data, but will be updating with the 2020 Census data when it becomes available. We will continue to update this, its ongoing work and dynamic.

Saara: This data was before COVID 19: what does the community look like now?

Margi: we don't know how COVID will impact our models and travel behavior

Tristan: In terms of oversight and accountability: The idea of having those committees that are members of the specific communities we speak of. We should reimagine how we do committee work. How we take their input and incorporate it into decision making. There should be transparency so we can retrospectively check if committee direction actually informed decision-making. Audits of committee effectiveness at influencing decision-making

Response (Margi): Our annual reports should be reporting back out of our progress towards are stated outcomes. We will also get audited by our auditor.

Response (Raahi): We're looking at investing in community capacity to be research/auditing support as a third party to promote accountability

Laura: It's my understanding that ODOT does not provide race stats in their crash/pedestrian injury data downloads. Is that accurate?

Response (Margi): The data is only as good as what the police give them. There were problems with how they were reporting race so they got rid of the category

Laura: I learned about this through personal experience: I was hit by a car, the police wrote me down as Latino. Metro has some leverage: We can't make informed policy decisions if we don't have this accuracy. Why doesn't the state require people to list race on their driver's license? We should push the state to require this. That is unreliable data – we should caveat this. In general, we just need better data and better approaches to data.

Karla: We need to do more community engagement in unincorporated Washington County, and follow up on what they've already told us, particularly about safety. Also: how do we advance homeownership in the BIPOC communities, because that's the only solution for long term wealth building and stability?

Patricia: We've been seeing a variety of new traffic control options (e.g. traffic circles) but not all these support pedestrians. How are we making sure everyone has safety and access?

### **Committee Discussion**

Martine started with a quote

Tristan read a letter drafted by CORE members to Metro Council aloud. The letter calls attention to the systemic and ongoing police violence against Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color.

CORE member's lift up organizations like PAALF, Unite, Don't Shoot:

- i. Divest in police
- ii. Reinvest in Black lives
- iii. Protect our communities

CORE members call on Metro not to create new solutions, but to amplify solutions from the Black community and advancing these in all of our jurisdictions

Questions for discussion: What do we do next?

Martine: as we've matured, we are now giving council direction on what community is asking of Metro:

1. What is Metro's role in this moment?
2. How can CORE work together with Metro council regarding this issue?

Christine: Thanks CORE for their direction. Conversation has been twofold: us as an employer, and as a facilitator. We have to take a step back from our contracts with public security. We also need to leverage our influence in Salem – to add the POC Caucus' agenda to our lobbying agenda. Finally, to use our role of public officials to support public healing.

Tristan: Covert ways in which white supremacy and racism show up in these conversations also need to be addressed.

Raahi: We're committed to evaluating our relationships with security firms and Sharif and police departments. We're evaluating all of our touch points, to look at what's possible. We're also starting to convene a Black caucus so Black staff can lead on culture change work. We're also circling back to what community has been telling us for years – reviewing the solutions put forth by Black leaders and organizations. Council has also recently allocated funding for community capacity building grants to go to civic engagement in BIPOC communities

Katie: We need you to have communities back in this moment. Metro needs to listen. This is the moment where Metro needs to have an opinion and to put pressure on our jurisdictions to do the right thing. We need to say: we need to shift how we do policing. Even though this is going to be painful and messy, but it's necessary

Tristan: He wanted to hold space for the DEI team and equity professionals, especially those of color, who are so tired and exhausted because this is their lives. He calls on elected leaders and others at Metro to step up – take the burden, show up for our communities.

Laura: It is time to be courageous – it is time for us to have high expectations for our elected leaders. It is time for our leaders to be uncomfortable

Katie: Councilors, I hope you consider a public statement supporting this letter's thoughts/asks.

**Adjourn**