



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2020
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Place: Zoom

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Tristan Penn, Martine Coblentz

CORE Members: Dele Oyemaja, Karla Hernandez, Maria Magallon, Daniela Ortiz, Quincy Brown, Duncan Hwang, Patricia Kepler, Effie Bustamante, Laura John, Katie Sawicki

MERC Commissioners: Dañel Malán, Karis JA Stoudamire-Phillips

Metro Councilors: Metro Councilor Craddick, Metro Councilor Lewis

Metro staff: Raahi Reddy, Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Melissa Palavecino, Tiffany Thompson, Nathan Sykes, Reed Broderson

Absent: Saara Hirsi, Nura Elmagbari, Mahmood Jawad, Daniela Ortiz

Welcome and Overview of the day

Melissa shared an overview of using zoom.

Martine welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the day covering three topics: Multi-Family Garbage and Recycling Services, Overview of Equity in Regional Congestion Pricing, and Relationship between CORE and Metro Council.

Martine announced that four members of CORE will be transitioning out and have been with CORE since the beginning: Katie Sawicki, Duncan Hwang, Karla Hernandez, and Effie Bustamante. She thanked them for their service and the work they have done to bring CORE to where it is.

Duncan thanked everyone for his experience over the last three years on CORE. Racial Equity at Metro has been a long process and there had been a pre-cursor to CORE that had lot of folks on it. So much is owed to community leaders who guided us along the way and many of them work at Metro now.

Public Comment

No public comment

Committee Business and Updates

Quincy shared that Venture Portland is providing grants through September 26 to help businesses weather the storm through the fall, especially with covered and heated areas for the winter.

Effie shared that Prosper Portland is also letting grants for businesses owned by at least 50% by people of color for COVID relief. Mercy Corps is doing the same. Effie also asked folks to pay attention to what is happening in the prison system. Coffee Creek was evacuated and sent to Deer Ridge in Madras and this is the first time in Oregon that this has happened. The folks who are in prison are trying their best to get the message out about what is happening.

Tristan shared that NTEN is releasing a guide for non-profits on how to equitably implement technology and provide processes and procedures focusing and centering racial equity. Smaller and larger nonprofits feel stress they tend to become more inequitable over time. For example, with everyone working from home many nonprofits ask folks to provide their own technology which is very inequitable.

Martine asked for additional updates to be shared in the chat. No additional updates.

Martine reminded everyone that CORE recruitment closed today. Tristan will be working with Metro staff on the selection committee. She invited anyone on CORE who would also like to be on the selection committee.

Karla Hernandez volunteered for the selection committee.

Martine also shared that Metro is continuing to address budget issues with the pandemic. Earlier in the year Metro brought budget reductions to CORE for recommendations. There will be an email out this week with budget reductions continued and feedback will need to happen quickly.

Council Update

Councilor Christine Lewis

It is on the mind of all of the councilors to pass the transportation measure on the ballot this November. It has been a community led campaign and the messages around safety, climate change and equity are important. During the last week, Metro has provided shelter at the Oregon Convention Center for those displaced by fires. It has continued to be a shelter for houseless folks since the beginning of COVID. Metro continues to actively participate in Reimagine Oregon. Leaders have spoken with Council and the MERC Commissions and continues involvement at local and state level. This touches on housing, transportation and economic recovery which Metro wants to take leadership in as well. Moving forward with the Metro 2040 planning grants are normally on a cyclical basis and they have been revamped with more equity components and keeping in mind the need to

move quickly. Community Placemaking grants have normally opened at the beginning of the calendar year are moving to a budget year cycle and will be kicking off later this month. Those are grants of up to \$25,000 for non-profits that are flexible around anything centering community in specific places.

Martine asked for questions in the chat. No additional questions.

Equity in Multi-family Garbage and Recycling Services

Presenters: Jennifer Erickson and Sara Kirby

Martine asked if they are looking for specific feedback of any kind, general feedback, or just questions.

- Just looking for general feedback and questions. It was flagged that Multi-family Garbage and Recycling was of interest to CORE. Today is about code and rule work which is really bureaucratic to get us to the outcome of improved services. Traditionally, would only engage local governments and garbage and recycling companies. Working hard through this process to get more information out to communities. Learning a lot about how to describe rulemaking to get into the programs and services.
- There were a lot of great comments at the July meeting about the need for changes especially in multi-family communities. It would be great to hear more of that through the public comment period which is what we can formally take to Council and the COO. With COVID, we rely even more on groups like this to get the word out.

Quincy wanted to know more about education and outreach opportunities. Is there a way in which there could be more local and city based opportunities for non-profits to provide those services? To have a more localized educational opportunities and putting into the rules updates?

- Education and outreach is from Metro, cities, counties and garbage collectors. And yes, that reaches certain folks but not others. Within our department we are working to establish relationships with different Community Based Organizations and to understand what culturally relevant services means. We are leaning into those partnerships and there will be a place for those local organizations to create that shared understanding of this work and to be compensated for it.

Maria asked about the food bins being picked up every other week. Is it going to be sealed so it doesn't attract critters?

- The City of Hillsboro is the only jurisdiction that is doing that collection every other week for combined food and yard debris. Initial thought was that it would not be

pretty in late August but they did get permitted from the facility that takes the material to do it and Metro does not have control over that. It was an economic decision – if they did it weekly the cost impact was a \$5 increase monthly but every other week it was only \$0.49 a month. They are collecting this way and will see how it goes. In general, food only comprised 5% of residential yard debris in combined programs.

- Dañel shared that uncovered bins have attracted rats.

Martine asked for additional feedback and there was none.

Regional Congestion Pricing Study

Presenters: Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara and Choya Renata

Martine thanked them for the presentation and for coming to CORE when they are in a phase of study. What are the impacts and how are you weaving in your departments' strategic plan and accessing experts both in the field and in DEI work.

- Choya asked if there are additional people known to CORE who have expertise in both that they should reach out to? There are equity groups with ODOT and PBOT as well that they are connecting with and the consultants are open to additional input. Transportation modelling, data collection and data study isn't used to thinking about equity in the ways that practitioners do.
- Elizabeth shared that congestion pricing hasn't been done in the US and our transportation model in our region is well thought of and has been used over and over again for light rail projects. We need to look at this in a different way to understand who will receive the benefits and who won't and this approach hasn't been done. It is learning at this point.

Quincy asked if the study will also be looking at ways to utilize the funding. Historically, disinvestment happened in certain areas and will it look at how to right those wrongs? If so, how are you going to model that?

- We are going to have a combination of ways of looking at things. We are writing technical papers that say when we model this we see that I had an impact in these areas and here is where there is underinvestment. If you were to do a project, here is what you should look at: transit access, crossing the street, safety, etc. This is exploratory more than a specific project.
- Will point out and identify areas for any jurisdiction considering implementing these type of projects with general guidance and direction that you must consider how pricing impacts people of color, low income and other marginalized group.

- Quincy shared that his background is in transportation. When you are looking at congestion pricing you have to consider where there is a lack of data. Micromobility, shared mobility are two resources that you might want to get people to change to. With pricing may be able to do more in a couple of years and can sway a jurisdiction to do a project.
- Agreed that we need to lay groundwork to do that – tools like electric bikes. Will have papers that also consider what to do to move forward.

Danel asked if it will be the plan down the line to add park and rides and more buses. Will there be opportunities to consider innovation and to look at models in Europe and open proposals for innovators to think outside of the box?

- Not proposing specific strategies. We are proposing that people take a broader view and think about how different areas could be improved. There are concerns about places where people can't safely walk to transit. Care sharing. We are learning
- Not only thinking about how we mitigate negative impacts on marginalized groups. But how do you equitably distribute incentive or disincentive to drive across the spectrum? We don't have a way to model that yet.
- Equity is very important to this project and we are looking at it step by step. Congestion pricing is a study to see if we can actually move the needle on congestion. If a tool doesn't do that then we name it. Can look deeper into equity, new tools and safety. Our study is to reduce climate change and also promote safety and equity.

CORE Relationship with Metro Council

Martine facilitated this conversation.

Martine shared that they are bringing the conversation back to what we have been discussing about the relationship between CORE and Council to ensure that we are meeting racial justice and equity goals. We drafted a letter from CORE. What are the ways we need to set up structures and systems that are needed to support this relationship? What would you like Tristan and I to keep in mind when we meet with staff? Would like to hear from Councilors too.

Maria shared that she remembers that CORE had more interactions with Councilors present. She suggested a meet and greet to get to know each other more to build relationships and to push councilors to advance racial equity.

Karla suggested creating connections between CORE members and the Councilors who are in their district so that they can also engage communities with their Metro Councilors and local districts and inviting Councilors to things happening locally.

Katie stated that there is a lot of knowledge that folks hold as a collective group but that also there is a lot of experience that people hold individually. She suggested that it might be good to do a skills assessment so that we can more easily connect individuals to issues that they have expertise in and that Councilors are going to be working on. The example of Quincy and his experience with transportation.

Laura asked how often CORE presents to Council and it is annually. She suggested presenting to Council more frequently, perhaps quarterly to have continual communications about accomplishments and what we are looking for in the future. It is a level of accountability with Council.

Quincy shared that he agrees with specific area quarterly reports. Give overviews of everything we have seen with Council and ensure that Council hears recommendations as well as all of the rest of Metro.

Raahi shared that the once a year presentation is a year in review. Councilors receive notes from every meeting and the Council members present are meant to be liaisons. DEI prepares notes and information as well. CORE also has more touch points inside the agency. Feedback you give on a particular project goes directly to Council as well. There are multiple channels of updates that are happening after each meeting.

Martine asked the Councilors for their feedback and thoughts. What has been helpful? What could be strengthened?

Councilor Craddick shared that her main focus from CORE is to know if Metro is actually meeting our commitment to racial equity. Please go back on a regular basis and review what we said we are trying to accomplish. Will it meet the needs of communities of color? Is there more that we should be doing? We want to hear your concerns about the programs.

Danel shared that is a big concern of mine too. In East county we don't get roads patched at the same rates. At Multnomah County they have events at places like IRCO. It would be great to have councilors at these kind of events so they understand the breadth of our communities and not just lumping all communities of color together. More awareness of the variety of communities and the nonprofits that serve them.

Martine shared that we are trying to figure out how to have a two way conversation between CORE and Council. We have had presentations from departments and then they return in alignment with the strategic plan. How can it become more of an iterative process where CORE brings issues to Council as well that need to be centered.

Quincy asked how to bring two way conversations with the community as well with the specific Councilors to the area – having those conversations on the ground.

Martine wants to come back at the next meeting to look at these ideas on what to try for next steps.

Closing

Melissa shared that CORE members need to complete their paperwork in order to be paid which includes signed amendments and invoices.

Martine invited CORE members who are leaving to share comments.

Katie stated that it was a pleasure to serve on CORE and enjoyable to see new voices.

Karla thanked everyone for the experience and that she learned a lot. The beginning of CORE focused on what we are and now you all will balance how to integrate the committee.

Effie shared that there was a lot of learning and that it was an honor to be on this team. Encouraged everyone to make sure they get to know one another.

Adjourn