

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

2:00 PM

This work session was held virtually.

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the work session to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Work Session Topics:**2:05 Regional Congestion Pricing Study Overview/Update**

President Peterson introduced Margi Bradway, Metro staff, and Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara, Metro staff, to present on the Regional Congestion Pricing Study Overview/Update.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara provided a brief explanation of congestion pricing. She defined congestion pricing as the use of a price mechanism to alert drivers to the external costs of their trip. She stated that congestion pricing seeks to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions and change traveler behavior. She noted that congestion pricing was getting worse in Oregon and emphasized that congestion drastically worsened following the 2008 recession.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara outlined the Regional Congestion Pricing Study planning structure. She explained that the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) would serve as the Technical Advisory Committee, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) would provide policy insight and keep regional partners informed, and the Metro Council would provide overall guidance and insight. She listed the hired consultants and described their areas of expertise.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara described the Regional Congestion Pricing Study goal: to understand how our region could use

congestion pricing to manage traffic demand to meet climate goals without adversely impacting safety or equity. She explained that the study seeks to evaluate the technical feasibility and performance of four different pricing tools: cordon, vehicle miles traveled, roadway, and parking. She noted that the congestion pricing scenarios would be measured against the Region's 4 Priorities: reducing disparity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, getting to Vision Zero, and addressing congestion.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara detailed the evaluation process. She highlighted that staff would test for reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, review for potential impacts to equity and safety, and explore strategies to maximize benefits. She stated that experts in congestion pricing programs and modeling would also be hired to help shape the study and evaluate the results. Ms. Mros-O'Hara reviewed the study's coordination with other congestion pricing efforts in the region. She listed the coordination agreements between Metro, the Portland Bureau of Transportation, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Ms. Mros-O'Hara outlined the project schedule and noted the study report and recommended next steps would be completed by early 2021.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about the jurisdictional agreements.

Councilor Dirksen asked how staff would ensure they acquire accurate tolling data.

Councilor Lewis recommended that staff include diversion into its priorities. She asked how staff defined choice and about outreaching strategies.

Councilor Craddick inquired about tolling and congestion management.

Councilor Chase asked about existing data on congestion pricing.

President Peterson directed staff to draft clearly articulated plans for revenue raised through congestion pricing.

3:05 Regional Investment Strategy: Transportation Investment Measure
Region-wide Programs

President Peterson introduced Andy Shaw, Metro Staff, and Margi Bradway, Metro staff, to present on the Get Moving 2020: Region-wide Programs.

Mr. Shaw provided a brief background on the regionwide programs. He highlighted the various forms of community engagement throughout the program development process. Mr. Shaw reviewed the key priorities expressed by participants of the community forums: safety, equity, and accountability. He listed the regionwide program's priority areas: safe routes to school, safety hot spots, better bus, regional walking and biking connections, thriving main streets, anti-displacement strategies, corridor affordable housing, bus electrification, student transit passes, and future corridor planning. Ms. Bradway reviewed the criteria across the programs.

Mr. Shaw discussed the draft investment recommendations. He noted the funding amount that would be allocated to the programs each year: \$9 million for safer streets, \$2 million for Better Bus, \$9 million for Walking and Biking Connections, \$0.5 million for Future Corridor Planning, \$11.5 million for community stability, \$9 million for Bus Electrification, and \$9 million for Student Transit Passes. Ms. Bradway highlighted key details about each program.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis recommended that staff adjust the student status to anyone between the ages of 7 through 18. She suggested that staff enhance the program details on anti-displacement in order to clarify that the funds allocated to the program would not resolve the issue of displacement in the region.

Councilor Stacey expressed discontent for the project timeline. He recommended staff prioritize the program areas

Councilor Chase recommended that staff prioritize developing the youth pass program. He stated that he was not in favor of a phased implementation of a universal youth pass.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about TriMet's Transit Oriented Development plans.

Councilor Dirksen raised concerns about the costs of the proposed student transit passes.

Councilor Craddick recommended that staff prioritize passes for high school students for the ballot measure. She noted that transit services are not available youth in all parts of the region.

President Peterson asked for staff to set up a meeting with TriMet leadership to discuss a phased implementation of a universal youth pass.

4:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Madrigal provided updates on the Moody's rating of Metro's Hotel Bonds and the 2040 Planning and Development Grant Awards.

4:25 Councilor Communication

There was none.

4:30 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nubia Milpas Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Nubia Milpas Martinez, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 26, 2020

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	05/26/2020	Get Moving 2020: Regionwide Programs Draft Recommendations	052620cw-01