

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

10:30 AM

Revised 10/18

<https://zoom.us/j/471155552> or 877-853-5257 (toll free)

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:31 a.m.

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

Work Session Topics:

10:35 15 Bridge Replacement Program Update

Council President Peterson introduced Greg Johnson (he/him) and Ray Mabey (he/him) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the *Interstate Bridge Replacement Program PowerPoint Presentation*.

Greg summarized the bridge replacement project history, recent initiating efforts, why the bridge must be replaced, the six problems of the corridor, key objectives, desired outcomes and screening criteria, design options, the IBR solution, the program schedule and timeline, commitment to embedding equity and climate into the program, equity and climate framework, environmental & climate considerations, stakeholder involvement, and current funding.

Ray explained the amendment phase project cost.

Greg explained his background and opinions about the importance of this project.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson asked for clarification about the preliminary engineering (PE) funding.

Ray responded to President Peterson's question by explaining more about PE funding.

Councilor Nolan asked staff about the current metrics known about the environmental impacts of the current corridor, explained that Council and the State of Oregon have established climate goals of reducing transportation's emission of greenhouse gasses by 45% below 1990 levels and asked what steps this team is taking to design to that outcome. Councilor Nolan followed up by asking if a twelve lane bridge is off the table.

Greg responded to Councilor Nolan by explaining that a "do no harm" approach is a baseline for any project that moves forward, but is not adopted as this project's goal, their goal is to do better. Greg explained that this project hopes to reduce VMT by giving folks alternatives to single occupancy trips and expressed that this project can help traffic move smoother.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed that he doesn't want to approve a design just for the sake of capitalizing on planning dollars that have been invested, wants the project to have as small of a footprint as possible, and stick to three lanes. Councilor Gonzalez stressed that he wants to make the project smaller and greener and focus more on resiliency of a project.

Greg expressed that he understands the draw to making this a smaller project but explained that the Federal Government will not allocate federal funding to this project if the project does not improve the corridor.

Councilor Lewis asked about community work group

involvement regarding transit options and explained that a bridge for the future cannot be built without light rail. Councilor Lewis followed up by asking about funding and budget.

Greg explained that his team has groups meeting with transit agencies weekly and that conversations around transit options are robust. Greg followed up by explaining that the overall budget for this project is between \$3.8 and \$4.5 billion, this will be funded by tolling and state and federal governments.

Councilor Rosenthal stressed that this corridor is at the intersection of two multimodal corridors, one of which is the Colombia River. He then asked about community and how its defined, and asked if one of the goals will be to minimize the number of short trips, and asked about final design engineering.

Greg explained that this project is in the Preliminary Engineering phase and what that means, that the community advisory committee is made up of individuals from across the region, and explained that they are looking to minimize short trips by providing alternative transit options across the bridge.

Councilor Craddick stressed that a bridge with many lanes will not lower the number of people who drive or congestion, and expressed that in order to reduce congestion people need multiple efficient transit options. Councilor Craddick encouraged the project to focus on mass transit including max and bus and stressed the environmental importance of this project and wants reducing greenhouse gas emissions to be most important goal for this project.

Greg responded to Councilor Craddick by explaining that this is a complex and very important project.

Councilor Nolan asked staff when the project needs Metro's approval by.

Greg responded to Nolan's question by stating that the project will need Metro support by March of 2022 and explained that if funding approvals are delayed costs will be added.

Council President Peterson expressed that she believes that the bridge must be replaced but the region's commitments must be taken into account.

11:20 I-5 Bridge Values and Outcomes

Council President Peterson introduced Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara (she/her) and Margi Bradway (she/her) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up *Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement Program Presentation*.

Margi introduced the presentation and explained the history of this project's outcomes, values and principles.

Elizabeth explained the purpose of the presentation, Metro's role in the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBRP), IBRP decision development framework, IBRP's values, outcomes and actions, pulled up *Metro Council's Values, Outcomes, and Actions for the I-5 Bridge Replacement Program* to walk through Council's values, outcomes, and actions for the I-5 bridge replacement project.

Council Discussion

President Peterson explained that staff needs Council's backing to push these values, outcomes and actions through technical committees.

Councilor Craddick asked if they have considered lowering tolls on electric vehicles.

Margi thanked Councilor Craddick for the suggestion.

President Peterson shared thoughts about tolling and how many lanes should be tolled.

Margi expressed that staff is looking at data to make sure that all systems come together in terms of system performance.

Councilor Lewis asked if the tolling office can be asked to model dynamic pricing and expressed that she would like to see Metro reference in writing where they have successfully put policies into practice.

Margi expressed that Regional Congestion Pricing Study could be used as an example where Metro has informed the conversation.

Elizabeth expressed that Metro is in the early modeling stage of the different transit alternatives and that they are hoping for robust testing of different types of pricing, including dynamic.

Councilor Rosenthal supported comments by both Councilors Craddick and Lewis, noted that disaster resiliency

is not included as a value and that economic resiliency should be prioritized more.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed that reducing or eliminating single occupancy vehicles is equally important as limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Council President Peterson added that there are a lot of things around workforce that is missing in the area that this project can help with and asked how Metro can use knowledge from partners across the region to see if this can help Metro come to conclusions about health of the region. President Peterson asked if Council is in agreement of general movement towards a resolution in the coming weeks.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the purpose of the resolution.

Council President Peterson explained that the resolution will be a policy direction.

12:05 Review and Discussion of an Upcoming Request by Oregon Department of Transportation to Amend the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program To Create a Preliminary Engineering Phase and Add Funding to the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement Project

Council President Peterson introduced Ted Leybold (he/him) and Ray Mabey (he/him) to present on the topic.

Ted explained that ODOT has begun a request to amend the MTIP to add a preliminary engineering phase to the MTIP for the IBRP and this will add state funding this phase of the project.

Ray gave more information about the preliminary

engineering phase.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson explained that Council has some discomfort about approving money without adequate levels of trust.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed that community members have expressed that the PE funding would be used to redo the CRC instead of exploring other options, and followed up by asking staff what would happen if this amendment is not supported by Council.

Ray explained that the IBRP wants to maximize use of the previous work while still modifying where necessary.

Margi responded to Councilor Rosenthal's follow up question by explaining that if Council were to reject this amendment it would go back to JPACT, where it would then be amended.

Councilor Lewis asked about the timeline for this amendment and why the TIP amendment is being voted on by Council in December.

Margi explained that the project is being moved at a fast pace because they are chasing federal dollars and to make progress before the next legislative session.

Councilor Craddick expressed that she still wonders if this MTIP amendment is sending Council in a direction that does not align with their values and appreciates staff supporting Council through this process.

Council President Peterson asked staff to craft a letter to the IBRP team that asks questions that Council needs answered during the PE phase in order to approve the MTIP.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if staff has or can get information about the impact this amendment will have on other MTIP projects.

Margi explained that staff will not have a full analysis of the MTIP yet.

12:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- Ridwell’s application to becoming a licensed recycling entity
- Vaccination policy

12:25 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Quarterly Trail Forum - I got this name wrong. Maybe Oregon trail forum?
- Hope Grant meetings
- Presentation to the THBRD Board
- Presentation to the Washington County Courtroom

12:30 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stellan Roberts

Stellan Roberts, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	PowerPoint	10/19/21	Interstate Bridge Replacement Program PowerPoint Presentation	101921cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	10/19/21	Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement Program PowerPoint Presentation	101921cw-02
3.0	PowerPoint	10/19/21	Metro Council's Values, Outcomes, and Actions for the I-5 Bridge Replacement Program	101921cw-03