

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

10:30 AM

<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 Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Presentations:

10:35 Indigenous People's Day Recognition

Council President Peterson introduced Deputy Chief Operating Officer Andrew Scott (he/him), Metro, to present on the topic.

The presenter explained that Metro is observing Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October. This decision seeks to honor and respect the enduring social, cultural, and political history of indigenous peoples and tribal nations.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Andrew Scott introduced guest speakers Liz Medicine Crow and Barbara Blake. The speakers discussed their partnership with Metro, specifically the cemetery and parks teams, to help locate native ancestors residing within Portland cemeteries.

Council Discussion

Both Council President Peterson and Andrew Scott thanked the presenters for their work and reaffirmed Metro's commitment to their partnership.

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

Work Session Topics:

10:55 Update on Parks and Nature Bond Refinement and Bond Evaluation Outcomes Framework

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Parks and Nature Director John Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Deputy Director MG Devereux (he/him), Strategic Funding Program Manager Beth Cohen (she/her), and Principal Consultant Steve Patty (he/him) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Update on Parks and Nature Bond Refinement and Bond Evaluations Outcome Framework PowerPoint to present to Council.

Staff's presentation gave an update on how the department is implementing the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond, updating the council on how funds have been utilized to improve water quality, protect fish, and connect people to nature. A timeline detailing the projects development was provided as well as an evaluation framework covering bond usage.

Council Discussion

Councilor Craddick asked staff about the difficulty of managing the payment of invoices.

Staff explained that the invoices metric was included to ensure that Metro can continue to build trust with contractors throughout the duration of projects.

Council President Peterson affirmed the presenter's response, stating that metrics such as tracking the payment of invoices can be helpful in up keeping Metro's standards and creating strong working relationships with contractors without plentiful resources.

Councilor Gonzalez first asked staff about how long the bond refinement process has taken in the past.

The presenters replied that it is difficult to compare the bond refinement process for this project to other refinements in the past as the department is working to build out new program areas with the 2019 bond measure.

Councilor Gonzalez then raised the question of how climate resilience will be measured and how Metro can express the impact of this money at reducing greenhouse gases and pollutants.

Staff explained that several bond programs, such as Protect and Restore, are directly aimed at tackling climate issues. Speaking in regards to climate-focused metrics in the evaluation framework, the presenters stated that they would have more high-level statistics to share further into the bond refinement process.

Councilor Lewis asked the presenters if their metrics would account for overlapping projects from earlier bond refinement processes. She also questioned how the data gathered from these metrics would be used to shape policy in the future.

Staff remarked that the third phase of the refinement process focuses on pulling insights from collected data that will help inform the future development of the projects.

Councilor Rosenthal commented that resiliency could be measured through the reduction in peak flows in streams or the lowered impact of high temperatures on stream temperatures. He proceeded to question how improvements in water quality can be tied into the project goals of equity and community.

Councilor Nolan discussed the importance of timeliness

when discussing the bond refinement process. They remarked that staff's goals should be discussed in the context of concrete timetables.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

11:40 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update and Emerging Transportation Trends Study

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Margi Bradway (she/her), Kim Ellis (she/her), and Eliot Rose (he/him) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation explained what the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is, its scope, goals, community, and framework. The core vision behind the plan is creating an equitable economy and quality of life that is sustained by a safe, reliable, and affordable transportation system with plentiful travel options.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson reminded the council about MTIP criteria, explaining that it might change the way policies within the 2023 RTP are chosen and developed.

Staff responded by stating that the process of choosing which projects to include will differ from the traditional

process in that Metro will provide clear, outcome-specific guidelines for what the projects should be aiming to achieve, as well as providing feedback to submitted projects on how they can be improved.

Councilor Lewis asked presenters if it will be the case that this RTP will be focused on its own policy measures rather than choosing to build upon the frameworks of past RTP's and their projects.

Staff responded that there is the opportunity in every RTP to change the direction of the development of work, however long-term projects implemented in past RTP's will likely continue to play a dominant role in the plan as they continue to be developed.

Councilor Nolan remarked that if Metro is holding racial equity, sustainability, and mobility as key values going into the 2023 RTP that we should convey to partners that projects that have a negative impact on any of the key values will not be incorporated into the plan.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how railroads will be involved in the plan.

Staff explained that alongside the RTP Metro is also leading a regional freight delay and commodity movement study that directly engages the interests of the railroads and the community.

Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that he would like to signal in the 2023 RTP as well as in other Metro programs that Metro is in their last era of highway infrastructure development.

Eliot Rose shared with the council the Emerging Transportation Trends Study presentation. The presentation explained the Emerging Transportation Trends Study, which held the goals of developing a common understanding of changes to transport amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and identifying potential changes to policy and analysis to consider during the 2023 RTP. Major trends discussed were the pandemics' disparate effects on BIPOC and low-income individuals, the slowing and eventual return of travelling levels, the greater proportion of the population working from home, and low-income people's reliance on public transportation.

Councilor Lewis commented that the freight and ecommerce nexus should continue to be examined due to the rising demand for ecommerce throughout the pandemic.

Councilor Rosenthal firstly asked the presenter if the rising rates of ecommerce can be analyzed within a climate smart framework. He also questioned the nature of the word "significant" throughout the presentation, asking for a more specific analysis of the weight of different trends.

Staff responded that they are trying to get a better grasp on how ecommerce is playing a role in shaping their climate goals through data provided by the regional freight delay and commodity movement study. In regards to the councilor's question about significance, the speaker replied that he generally used the word qualitatively to describe a sizable shift in the measure.

Councilor Craddick remarked on several pieces of data, noting the impact of telecommuting and the disparate impact of the pandemic on low-income individuals.

Council President Peterson noted the importance of discerning which of these trends will persist in the short-term and which will become long-term trends in regards to planning which projects are incorporated into the 2023 RTP. She also stated that we must stay focused on what the community needs, not only on what they might be doing currently moving forward.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

12:40 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal did not have any updates to provide.

12:45 Councilor Communication

No councilors provided updates.

12:50 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Kain, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2021

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	10/12/2021	Update on Parks and Nature Bond Refinement and Bond Evaluation Outcomes Framework Presentation Powerpoint	101221cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	10/12/2021	2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update: Kick-off Scoping Phase Presentation Powerpoint	101221cw-02