

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

2:00 PM

Revised 8/2

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

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Excused: 1 - Councilor Bob Stacey

2. Public Communication

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items. Seeing no discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Lewis, to adopt items on the consent agenda.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Excused: 1 - Councilor Stacey

3.1 Consideration of the Council Meeting minutes for June 17, 2021.

3.2 Consideration of the Council Meeting minutes for June 29, 2021.

4. Resolutions

4.1 Resolution No. 21-5188, For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-24 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to amend or Add Three Projects Impacting Gresham and ODOT Ensuring Required Federal Approvals and Phase Obligations Cans Occur Before the End of the Federal Fiscal Year (JL21-12-JUL)

Council President Peterson called on Margi Bradway (she/her), Mandy Putney (she/her), and Ted Leybold (he/him) to present to Council.

Ted provided an overview of the three projects covered by the resolution: 1) a local project in downtown Gresham; 2)

the Highway 217 Project; and 3) I-205.

Margi explained that the amendment process for the MTIP exists to accommodate discoveries made by planners on-site during the discovery process for projects.

In response to a question asked by Councilor Lewis Mandy explained the specifics of the projects insofar as they will manage to alleviate traffic and confirmed that further transit planning intel-gathering is in order.

In response to a question asked by Councilor Craddick Mandy and Ted discussed projects and conversations surrounding bottleneck issues on Highway 217.

Mandy responded to concerns voiced by Councilor Craddick to clarify that the “tolling” terminology (as opposed to “congestion pricing”) was used to better communicate with the public; however, specifics of the toll would be further outlined, and purposed to address the need to raise revenue as well as manage congestion.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Gonzalez expressed his concerns regarding how projects are prioritized, and admitted to feeling helpless to stop or reconsider projects that have been years in the making. He expressed appreciation for the staff that have put in the work to develop these projects, but questioned whether or not it was his role to merely rubber stamp these pre-conceived projects. He announced that he would not be voting in favor of the MTIP amendments, and in the future would no longer support any fossil fuel highway infrastructure projects unless ODOT and the state legislature prioritize and heavily invest in the region’s orphaned highways and key community arterial to the same degree, centering restorative and environmental justice.

Councilor Craddick noted that she hoped that these measures would garner public support for a series of more immediate projects Metro has lined up that will positively impact efforts to combat climate change. She further remarked that she did not feel that this vote today would immediately affect greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro Council President Peterson acknowledged a need to do things differently, noting a need to balance local transportation options with development. She further cited many of the large-scale transportation packages housed in the Get Moving 2020 efforts, which failed. She further voiced a need to talk about the upcoming Regional Transportation Plan and how to incorporate safe alternative transportation, but identified a need to make safety advancements in the present as well.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson called for a vote on the item.

A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Nolan, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Nay: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

Excused: 1 - Councilor Stacey

- 4.2 Resolution No. 21-5191, For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-24 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to Add Trimet's Division Transit Project Which was Awarded \$12,963,076 From the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (JL21-13-JUL2)

Council President Peterson called on Margi Bradway (she/her), Mandy Putney (she/her), and Ted Leybold (he/him) to present to Council.

Ted explained the purpose of the resolution: to add funding to the TriMet Division Transit Project. Ted described the evolution of the TriMet Division Transit Project funding.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Craddick noted that this project would have significant impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, and that the RapidTransit system would greatly increase capacity as well as the appeal of bus transit.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson called for a vote on the item.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Excused: 1 - Councilor Stacey

- 4.3 Resolution No. 21-5192, For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-24 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to Add ODOT'S Interstate 205- Abernethy Bridge Improvement Segment Which Includes \$375 Million of Construction Phase Funding (JL21-14-JUL3)

Council President Peterson called on Margi Bradway (she/her), Mandy Putney (she/her), and Ted Leybold

(he/him) to present to Council.

Ted explained the purpose of the resolution: to add the I-205 project in the vicinity of the Abernethy Bridge to the MTIP for the construction phase. Ted gave an overview of the project and explained the financial impact.

In response to a question asked by Councilor Nolan Mandy explained how the construction would improve seismic integrity and evacuation routes in the area and offered follow-up with Councilors on specifics.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Nolan expressed appreciation for the discussion and testimony provided so far, particularly Joe Courtright's critique of ODOT, who Councilor Nolan noted should be interacting with Metro as an equal partner. She additionally aligned herself with Councilor Gonzalez' concerns regarding merely rubber-stamping projects, and committed to working alongside him in making Metro in taking on a more proactive role. She committed to voting to this project due to its being part of a package which was negotiated in good faith within the region-particularly given that money was already allocated for it. She expressed dislike for the project and the way it was designed, but committed to Metro's part in this negotiation.

Councilor Lewis voiced that this project is one that is extremely important in her district, among other identified areas that are affected by the traffic. She identified the project as one piece of a series, and committed to advocating for measures which would encourage alternative transportation methods that would reduce climate change impacts.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed that, to him, these projects

are more about technical improvement than about capacity, and voiced the hope that ODOT would conceive of more finalized projections. He voiced the necessity for these technical and safety improvements while agreeing with the conceptual objections raised by his colleagues, and identified the more immediate needs of the region as his motivation for voting “yes”.

Councilor Craddick likewise agreed with the objections put forth and expressed appreciation for the testimony offered. She noted that she would be paying close attention to ODOT’s position on congestion pricing. She additionally advised on some issues to look out for if the intent is to implement a bus-on-shoulder move.

Metro Council President Peterson encouraged a discussion with Margi on having a work session to identify how to ensure that Metro councilors are receiving all the necessary information on projects they require upfront, and to set a standard.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson called for a vote on the item.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this Resolution was adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Nay: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

Excused: 1 - Councilor Stacey

4.3.1 Public Hearing for Resolution No. 21-5188, Resolution No. 21-5191, and Resolution No. 21-5192

Jules Walters, Mayor of West Linn: Jules thanked Metro and JPACT for their involvement in delivering congestion and traveler safety solutions through the conception of

Resolution 21-5192. Jules lauded the results the investment would provide, and the work it would do to alleviate congestion experienced by West Linn.

Laura Edmunds, CEO of North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce: Laura endorsed the MTIP amendment on behalf of the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce.

Chris Smith, member of No More Freeways, PDX: Chris expressed an appreciation of the difficulties of regional planning; however, Chris asserted that these transportation plans do not adequately address the threat of climate change. Christ encouraged councilors to vote against the resolution(s) and to rethink the approach.

Joe Courtright, economist with City Observatory, Portland: Joe agreed with Chris Smith's testimony, and attested to the negative impact that transportation has on the climate. Joe noted that current plans are not on the correct track to lessen the impacts of climate change and cited ODOT's inability to answer substantive questions asked by councilors as cause to reconsider an affirmative vote.

Cassie Wilson, Clackamas: Cassie asked councilors to consider a "no" vote on Resolution 21-5192. Cassie asserted that, as a disabled person, they face many financial barriers to ensuring secure transportation. Cassie further affirmed that they have frequently witnessed the impacts of inaccessible transportation options, and that a car should not be a prerequisite to participation in society (as it currently is now in Clackamas County).

Nellie Debris, Clackamas County Business Alliance: Nellie testified on behalf of the Clackamas County Business Alliance in support of the I-205 Improvement Project and accompanying MTIP amendment in light of additional funding provided by the state. Nellie noted that these

developments will secure the one and only safe route of passage between the North and South regions in the likelihood of a seismic event.

5. Chief Operating Officer Communication

There was none.

6. Councilor Communication

There was none.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shay Starling

Shay Starling, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 03, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.	Testimony	08/03/21	Written Testimony Doug Allen	080321c-01
2.	Testimony	08/03/21	Written Testimony Joe Cortright	080321c-02
3.	Testimony	08/03/21	Written Testimony Paxton Rothwell	080321c-03
4.	Testimony	08/03/21	Written Testimony on Resolution No. 21-5188 and Resolution No. 21-5192	080321c-04