

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

10:30 AM

Revised 11/10

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

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy President Craddick called the Metro Council Work Session to order at 10:32 a.m.

Present: 5 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

Excused: 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

Work Session Topics:

10:30 Metro's Role in Economic Recovery and Building an Inclusive Economic Future

Deputy President Craddick introduced Elissa Gertler (she/her), Jeff Raker (he/him), Brittany Bagent (she/her), and Cobi Lewis (she/her) to present on the topic.

Elissa began by putting economic development and Metro in context.

Staff pulled up *Metro's Role in Economic Recovery and Building an Inclusive Economic Future PowerPoint Presentation*.

Jeff introduced the presentation and explained the partnership between Greater Portland and Metro.

Brittany explained what GPEDD is, public engagement, what a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is, how the CEDS is used, the greater Portland story, the Core Pillars of the strategy foundation, the 20 year vision statement, values and guiding principles for the CEDS, goals and objectives for the economic development in the region.

Jeff discussed the project's new approach, the region's industries of economic strength, an example of a

recommended action and pilot projects.

Elissa made connections from the work of the CEDS and the work that Metro is doing to advance economic development by discussing ongoing Metro programs.

Cobi Lewis and Carmen Madrid explained how Metro has worked with Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon.

Malu explained some potential focus areas for Metro and presented discussion questions for Council.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal expressed that education and transportation are of particular interest to him, asked for more information about the connection between economic development and the construction to career pathways, if Metro has a plan to address the region's struggle to support small business growth, and if Metro competes or coordinates with the lower Columbia counties.

Brittany responded to Councilor Rosenthal's questions by providing more information about early education's role in economic development, explained goals to address the region's struggle to support small businesses, and explained that this work was done in collaboration with the lower Columbia counties.

Jeff explained about transportation's role in economic growth and explained that construction to career pathways is a good example of a workforce development effort.

Councilor Nolan asked to understand more about how the equity lens is being defined in this project and followed up

by asking if homeownership is a strategy for this plan.

Brittany expressed that equity in this project has been defined as wealth building.

Jeff responded to Councilor Nolan's follow up question by explaining that there is no distinct identified action in the CEDS related to developing homeownership in a meaningful way but there is a recognition of homeownership inequity.

Elissa added that Councilor Nolan's questions will be taken as direction to weave homeownership into economically focused activities.

Councilor Nolan expressed that building a business is another wealth building strategy and stressed the importance of investment in small business success.

Jeff responded to Councilor Nolan's question by giving more information on the Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

Councilor Lewis expressed that the challenge of bringing small starts to scale stands out to her and asked if Metro has a reputational issue around the economic prosperity for businesses outside of a few identifiable sectors.

Elissa expressed that the region is ahead of others because the economic development agency and MPO are in partnership.

Brittany explained that the business development pipeline is very busy but they are still looking to address the region's brand and reputation.

Jeff added that there is real intention in approaching the

climate tech industry.

Councilor Gonzalez asked staff what Metro can do with the existing budget and what role private capital had in the creation of this plan.

Brittany explained that Greater Portland Inc. will serve in a leadership role for implementing this plan and that private industry leaders were engaged throughout the planning process.

Elissa added that Council will have a number of opportunities to have input with the CEDS.

Deputy President Craddick summarized the Council Discussion, asked staff if they need anything else from Council right now, and followed up by asking staff for a target date for them to come back to Council to discuss this work again.

Elissa responded to Deputy President Craddick by thanking Council and expressed that they don't need anything else at this time.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy President Craddick moved on to the next agenda item.

11:20 Brownfields Program and the Brownfields Coalition

Deputy President Craddick introduced -Malu Wilkinson (she/her) and Brian Harper (he/him) to present on the topic.

Malu introduced the presentation.

Staff pulled up *Brownfields Program and the Brownfields Coalition PowerPoint Presentation*.

Brian explained what a Brownfield is, where the Brownfields are, types of sites, why it is important to invest in Brownfields, the Metro Brownfield Program, the McLoughlin Corridor grant, the new EPA Brownfield grant, the Portland Value Inn project and other projects, goals accomplished, and presented discussion questions to Council.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed his overall support for cleaning up Brownfields but explained that he opposed the 2016 Brownfield act because it did not force polluters to pay. Councilor Rosenthal followed up by asking about the number of sites being cleaned up with the current grant.

Brian explained that the Brownfield Program's legislative efforts are based in the notion that the polluter pays.

Councilor Lewis expressed hope that the Brownfields Coalition goes back to a geographic focus.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed appreciation for this important work.

Deputy President Craddick asked if the Brownfield work being done in coordination with corridor work in the region and followed up by asking if the Brownfields Program has identified new legislative priorities.

Malu expressed that Metro wants to align their resources and that the current grant is not geographically restricted.

Brian responded to Deputy President Craddick by explaining that the Brownfields Program has not yet identified new legislative priorities and asked Council how involved they

want to be in that process.

Deputy President Craddick expressed that Council would be very interested in more involvement.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy President Craddick moved on to the next agenda item.

11:50 Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- Updated 5 year forecasts for each of Metro’s funds.
- Tomorrow night’s information session on a proposed solid waste facility license for the Ridwell Portland Warehouse.

11:55 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Intertwine Annual Summit
- Redistricting public hearings
- Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee retreat
- Homebuilders Association breakfast
- Parks and Nature Bond Measure

12:00 Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy President Craddick adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stellan Roberts

Stellan Roberts, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	PowerPoint	11/16/21	Metro's Role in Economic Recovery and Building an Inclusive Economic Future PowerPoint Presentation	111621cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	11/16/21	Brownfields Program and the Brownfields Coalition PowerPoint Presentation	111621cw-02