

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

10:30 AM

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

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

Work Session Topics:**10:35 Site Readiness Toolkit**

Council President Peterson introduced Elissa Gertler [she/her], Jeff Raker, Ken Anderton (Port of Portland), Alex Joyce to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [Employment Land Readiness Toolkit Project Presentation] to present to Council.

Staff's presentation outlined the purpose and scope of the Employment Land Readiness Toolkit Project, foreseeable challenges, possible solutions, and current work.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson emphasized the importance of creating "family wage jobs," not "living wage jobs." She asked staff and Council to consider what actions Metro can take to guarantee this region is affordable for all.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how the Site Readiness Toolkit could be used by the City of Sherwood.

Elissa mentioned two things:

- Comprehensive economic development strategy, which addresses many of President Peterson's concerns, though much more work must be done.
- City of Sherwood would need to submit a concept plan to Council, and Staff is currently working with them to create one.

Councilor Lewis asked Alex to clarify his statement: “We have decent tools, but not at the right scale,” with the hope that Council can learn from their predecessors.

Alex pointed to overall costs of development as a massive hurdle. If the resources are there, he believes our existing tools can be enhanced, rather than creating new tools.

Ken added that public resources that can help reduce the risks of investing in development would be very helpful.

Councilor Hwang pointed out that tools like tax increments (aka urban renewal) and redevelopment authorities have historically hurt BIPOC communities in the region. He asked Staff how they would prevent such harms from happening again, or will they always be tools for gentrification.

Elissa spoke about the community outreach and participatory aspects of these tools.

Councilor Craddick restated her support for Staff’s work, asked about the Port of Portland’s status as a patient developer, and remarked that none of the 3 sites Staff had highlighted were on the East side.

Ken explained the Port of Portland’s changes in their land development work, and Staff explained that the 3 sites highlighted in the presentation were only examples of potential future developments, no immediate priorities.

Council President Peterson thanked Staff for the clarification, and re-emphasized Council’s desire to develop both sides of the region.

Councilor Nolan echoed both Councilor Hwang and Councilor Lewis’ concerns and voiced her support for this work.

Alex commented that urban renewal is a powerful tool, and has the potential to do great harm or good.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if it will be necessary to add legislative changes to improve the equity considerations. Elissa explained that Staff is currently working with other bodies to look at this very subject, and would like to return to Council to discuss further. Jeff mentioned early conversations with other state-wide partners on this very subject.

Council President Peterson reminded Council to consider the bigger picture so they may “raise all boats.” She then asked Staff for next steps.

Elissa outlined the next steps:

- Follow up on the recommendations made in Staff’s presentation
- Further discuss planning and policy tools that will further Council’s goals for this project
- Further discuss how Metro can align its finance and investment tools with Council’s goals

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

11:35 **I5BRP Regular Update: Climate Components**

Council President Peterson called on [Elizabeth M’ros Ohara] [she/her], [Mara Krinke] IBR Team, [John Willis] IBR Team, [Josh Proudfoot] Good Company, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [*I5BRP Council Work Session Climate Presentation*] to present to Council.

Council Discussion

Councilor Craddick asked to clarify if Staff has already begun measuring GHG emissions, and will continue to do so. She also asked what specific plans to actually reduce GHG emissions are being discussed. She also asked if staff had a plan if the project is unable to meet its emission goals.

Staff clarified that they are modeling the GHG emissions and clarified her other GHG measurement questions.

With regards to Councilor Craddick's second question, Mara responded by reminding Council that this is an inter-agency project, and that building an ideal bridge will not guarantee Staff meets their goals. Staff added that precluding certain aspects of the bridge will negatively affect the surrounding connective network.

Margi Bradway asked Elizabeth Mros O'hara to add her input regarding the modeling.

Elizabeth explained that initial modeling, which includes high-capacity transit, shows very high demand for transit. High capacity transit is an integral part of the IBR project, and will connect to important transit hubs.

Councilor Rosenthal made multiple comments:

- He believed the chart about passenger vs. freight transit was misleading since freight has a 2-3x higher impact on both congestion and climate than any individual passenger, and the actual imprint would be 20-30% rather than 10%.
- He had multiple suggestions for modeling moving forward.
- He asked if they would be presenting the greenhouse gas reductions from multiple stops, or just from Riverfront to the current site.

Staff explained that the modeling would be based on

regional GHG reductions. Elizabeth explained that there would be different tolling for freight vs. passenger vehicles. She also believed that much of the GHG analysis would use changes in VMT as the major input.

Councilor Nolan had multiple comments:

- They asked for clarification on some of the numbers on a slide that seemed off to them.
- They expressed their disappointment in the lack of details and new information after months of discussion.
- They hope to get new information before Council is cornered by deadlines.
- They asked if there are other ways of discouraging freight vehicles from transiting during peak traffic times.
- They asked what the project team is doing to achieve their public transit goals, and how they will make it competitive enough to rival single-passenger transit in terms of time.
- In your modeling, what assumptions are you making about hourly capacity of high-capacity transit?
- They echoed one of Councilor Rosenthal's suggestions, that modeling should be based on future fuel efficiency of vehicles.

John thanked Councilor Nolan for their input and would answer their questions offline.

Councilor Gonzalez asked for more information about the consequences of implementing the different scenarios alongside other factors.

Councilor Lewis asked how the "park and ride at Expo" affect Staff's modeling.

Elizabeth said she would be happy to share more detailed information about this with Council offline.

Councilor Hwang asked about the project’s implications beyond just the bridge and its immediate surroundings. He specifically mentioned possible regional changes in VMT, environmental justice implications, and induced demand. Staff explained that Metro asked the IBR team to conduct more comprehensive modeling because they had similar concerns. She also provided more information regarding induced demand and the work being done around it.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if tolling on I-205 will be included in the modeling. Margi clarified that it will be part of the modeling and briefly described how it may affect it.

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

12:35 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:
There were none.

12:40 Council Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:
There were none.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Kim

Nathan Kim, Legislative Assistant