

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, February 1, 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

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:30 a.m.

Work Session Topics:

10:35 Emerging Transportation Trends

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

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

Staff pulled up the Emerging Transportation Trends: Initial Results Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation shared and analyzed major transportation trends due to the pandemic and other recent disruptions. The primary goals of the study are developing a common understanding of changes that we have been experiencing individually, identifying potential changes to policy and analysis to consider during the 2023 RTP update, and setting the stage for other emerging trends work. The key findings of the research were that current trends stand to reverse progress towards the region's climate, equity, and safety goals, and that restoring transit service and ridership is critical to keeping our region on the right track.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan raised concerns that the study relies too heavily on the assumption that returning to pre-pandemic levels of transit ridership is the goal, stating that we must first address that the 2019 transit system did not realize the goals Metro had set. Furthermore, they critiqued the presentation for its lack of focus on how the transit system

has changed for service industry and other non-remote workers, pointing out that the pandemic has impacted low-income populations most and therefore has disparately affected equity. Lastly, they commented that it is unacceptable for Metro to simply wait for their climate goals to be met by citizens transitioning to electric vehicles, and that we must be proactive with climate policy.

Staff responded stating that they have been careful to note how the pandemic has affected differently classes, such as in the creation of a two-tiered transit system, and that this will be a focus throughout the rest of the process.

Council President Peterson remarked that a survey targeted at understanding the transit needs of the low-income population could be informative in crafting policy.

Councilor Hwang asked staff if they considered new technology such as delivery drones when modeling their research. He then questioned if there are any plans within the 2023 RTP that focus on expanding transit options outside of bringing individuals in and out of downtown.

Staff detailed that Trimet is planning to restructure their service prior to the 2023 RTP to better align their routes with the needs of those driving ridership. Speaking to the councilor's question regarding technology, the presenter stated that while their projections carry out to 2045, that the center of their efforts remain on short-term projects and planning.

Councilor Lewis questioned if the study investigated the trend of online shopping in both a dense, urban environment as well as more rural, suburban areas. She also

asked the presenters if any peak analysis was performed for transit ridership.

Staff explained that at this stage of the analysis process attention is being primarily directed to finding and analyzing individual trends, and that the combining of the trends for further peak analysis will occur in later stages of the process. As for online deliveries, the presenters commented that there are different considerations to consider when weighing the impacts of delivery services in urban and rural environments. Along with that, they noted that the pandemic shifted the online delivery market not only through increased demand, but higher demand for quick response services that deliver goods within one to two days compared to more traditional delivery periods.

Councilor Rosenthal firstly asked if presenters expect the trend of increased levels of working from home to persist once pandemic restrictions are lifted, and how this prediction informs transit policy moving forward. The councilor also asked whether the reported decreases to traffic congestion are normalized according to the population.

The presenters stated that the traffic congestion numbers are not normalized for population growth. Answering Councilor Rosenthal's first question, Rose commented on the difficulty of obtaining accurate survey data regarding work-from-home metrics. Given this difficulty, they noted the importance of asking this question from the employer side, surveying companies on what policies they are planning on implementing upon the lifting of restrictions.

Councilor Craddick began by remarking that if Metro seeks to uphold their goals of creating a safe, eco-friendly, and

equitable region, that transit is a necessary and fundamental component. Because of this, she stated we must make transit a more appealing option for citizens, and a step towards this may be focusing more on shifting transit lines to cater towards smaller communities and neighborhoods rather than the current arterial system.

Councilor Nolan raised concerns that Trimet's plan to bring transit to those that need it most will create a bifurcated transit system in which wealthy residents use private vehicles while low-income citizens must rely on using transit.

11:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- The budget process is in progress across Metro.
- The city manager forum discussing the Waste and Environmental Services department's budget was successful.

11:25 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- No councilors chose to provide updates.

10:30 Adjourn into Executive Session

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Kain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey Kain, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRAURY 1, 2022

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	02/01/2022	Emerging Transportation Trends: Initial Results	020122cw-01