

Council meeting

Minutes

April 26, 2022

Metro

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Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

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Tuesday, April 26, 2022

10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
888-475-4499 (toll free)

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

2. Public Communication

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items.

There was none.

3. Ordinances (Second Reading and Vote)

3.1 Ordinance No. 21-1467, For the Purpose of Amending the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan to Include the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the I-205 Toll Project,

Council President Peterson stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 21-1467 took place on Thursday, April 14th.

Council President Peterson called on [Margi Bradway] [she/her], Metro Deputy Director of Planning Research and Development, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [*I-205 Toll Project (PE Phase) RTP Amendment*] to present to Council.

Margi's presentation included: a review of the RTP amendment process, JPACT and MPAC actions and recommendations to Council, and a review of the OTC Letter of Agreement with Metro.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal asked why additional funding was being given to the I-205 tolling project.

Margi explained that ODOT has yet to decide upon a location for the proposed tolling gantry.

Councilor Lewis requested that ODOT present to Council and explain why the initial plan for five tolling gantries has been narrowed down to two.

Margi invited Della Mosier and Mandy Putney to answer Councilor Lewis' question.

Mandy explained that ODOT has not yet chosen exact locations for the gantries, but have decided that 2 will be near the bridges mentioned in the meeting materials. They still need to conduct environmental and traffic analyses.

President Peterson asked for clarification regarding ODOT's process of choosing locations for the tolling gantries.

Mandy explained that locations with more diversion impacts and would generate less revenue were eliminated.

Councilor Hwang asked what accountability measures for ODOT and Metro staff exist so they follow through with the commitments described in the letter.

Margi explained the term, transportation wallet: incentives to use multi-modal forms of transportation depending on the location. She then referred the question to ODOT Staff. Della explained that ODOT staff and Tri-Met are currently having these kinds of discussion, and that Council will hear more about them in the future.

President Peterson reiterated the importance of representing all of the lived experiences in the region while having these conversations.

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Councilor Nolan stated that Council did not receive a recommendation in favor of the RTP and MTIP amendments, with or without the sunset for the tolling

amendment. They also expressed their concerns regarding the letter that was submitted to Council, and whether its stated intentions are enough to keep ODOT accountable.

Metro Attorney Carrie McLaren explained that the letter is a letter of agreement between Metro and ODOT, and would be signed by President Peterson on behalf of Metro.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how the I-5 Bridge would be affected by ODOT's commitment, that future projects will include some form of BPP or RMPP integration.

Mandy explained that the IBRP is a tolling project, according to the RTP. Both tolling projects being discussed include the I-5 Bridge as a basis for assumptions in their modeling. She further explained that all of the tolling projects would be seamless, drivers would pay for the trip they take no matter which route they choose.

Margi added that Washington tolling laws must be considered alongside Oregon's tolling laws. She acknowledged Councilor Gonzalez's question and offered to invite the I-5 Bridge team to continue this discussion with Council at a later date.

Councilor Lewis expressed her disapproval with the 'tools' being used in this project. Metro would be much better suited working on system-wide planning. However, for this particular project, Metro is working on the policy-side. She also asked if the project is on track to meet the in water window and, if not, is it necessary to have the current discussion.

Della explained that ODOT is on track to meet their July deadline.

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Councilor Nolan expressed concerns regarding the process for approving the letter. They disapproved of the informal method of voting representing the will of Council. Carrie explained the legality of the process, and stated that it was permissible.

Councilor Rosenthal had two requests: that they receive information about the congestion impacts of adding lanes without tolling, and that they receive a more in-depth work plan that explains why the NEPA analysis requires \$27 million.

President Peterson thanked Staff for all of their hard work and helping to articulate the interests of the parties involved with this project.

Margi specifically thanked Metro, TPAC, and Clackamas County staff for their hard work.

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on this agenda item.

Doug Allen testified against the continuation of the tolling project without congestion pricing.

Councilor Craddick moved to vote on ORD 21-1467, seconded by **Councilor Rosenthal**

Council Discussion:

Councilor Lewis was happy that this particular package was given more time and deliberation, but expressed that she would not support it because of the diversionary impacts on Clackamas County, and its independence from a regional system.

Councilor Craddick showed dissatisfaction with the

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project's narrow focus upon congestion pricing. She thanked ODOT staff for considering tolling as a congestion management tool, not just a revenue source, and accommodating Council's requests, and stated that she would vote in favor of this project.

Councilor Gonzalez reflected on the great progress that has been made since this project was first introduced, and the number of compromises made. He stated his intention to vote in favor of this project, knowing there will be more discussions in the future.

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

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

Aye: 5 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Hwang

Nay: 2 - Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Nolan

4. Resolutions

4.1 Resolution No. 22- 5234, For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-2026 Metropolitan Improvement Program (MTIP) to Add the Preliminary Engineering Phase for ODOT's I-205 Tolling Project

A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Councilor Lewis

5. Other Business

5.1 IBRP Regular Update: I5BRP Regular Update: Transit Investment Considerations

Council President Peterson introduced Margi Bradway, Greg Johnson [he/him], and John Willis [he/him] to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [*IBR Program Update to Metro Council Presentation*] to present to Council.

Greg and John's presentation covered the IBRP's overall timeline, the current circumstances around the high capacity transit decision, and the upcoming Modified LPA.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Nolan asked why staff recommended that the proposed light rail's terminus be in Evergreen, when equity impacts would be improved if it reached Clark College. They also asked if staff's own equity analysis came to the same conclusion.

John explained that the recommendation considered input from all of ODOT's project partners, especially the City of Vancouver, and that the current recommendation connects to many equity priority communities.

Greg answered that, yes, their equity analysis came to this same conclusion. Addressing the equity shortcomings of this project are future conversations.

Councilor Hwang reiterated Councilor Nolan's same concerns, and feared that higher-income residents were being prioritized over those who are transit dependent. He also asked if the light rail will have enough capacity during peak hours to make it a viable option and, if not, what needs

to be done to make it so.

Staff explained that current modeling predicts there will be

greater demand than transit capacity, and addressing this issue is the topic of future discussions. Staff also offered to follow up with Council at a later date with more information regarding Councilor Hwang's question.

Councilor Craddick asked about the Evergreen Alignment. She asked if C-Tran and the light rail will be connected, and about the feasibility of adequately meeting the demand of "park and rides."

Staff clarified the Evergreen Alignment for Councilor Craddick. C-Tran and the light rail would be a few city blocks apart from one another. Greg explained that the challenge with "park and rides" is understanding how parking structures fit into Vancouver's overall land use and development goals. Staff can make some preliminary assumptions, but it is still too early to provide a definitive answer. Greg also expressed support for inviting C-Tran's director to speak with Council and review the plans.

Councilor Lewis asked for an explanation of the land use, to accommodate transit-oriented development, in the Evergreen area.

Staff deferred the question to CTRAN and Trimet.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the above-ground elevation at Hayden Island, the Riverfront, and the Evergreen Site. They also asked if the area around the bridge's lowest level will be an open or enclosed environment.

Staff could not provide specific numbers for the three sites, but spoke about the river crossing's design.

Councilor Gonzalez had 3 main points:

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- He wished Council had more about the project's performance with communities of color during staff's presentation.
- He wanted to see a feasible LRT program that maximizes performance.
- He asked how modeling and ridership assumptions incorporates tolling, and about the reliability of ODOT's past forecasts and modelling.

Matt and John reassured Councilor Gonzalez that their projections are accurate, and promised they would follow up with him at a later date, with more specific data.

John Willis also brought up inviting City of Vancouver and TriMet for some discussions re-examining IBRP's equity presentations, specifically around transit and different communities, and maximizing light rails as an alternative to tolling, especially for communities of color.

5.2 Review of Work Plan and Public Engagement Plan for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan update

Council President Peterson called on [Kim Ellis] [she/her], Metro

Director of Government Affairs, to present to Council. Staff pulled up the [*2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update*] to present to Council.

Kim's presentation included: a brief summary of the RTP and an overview of JPACT's recommendation to Council on Resolution 22-5255.

Councilor Rosenthal had multiple suggestions:

- Council should strengthen the section regarding involving cities and counties and their highway

departments through a series of public forums.

- They also suggested assigning a special group to shorten the language in the next version of the RTP.
- Council should add more regarding emergency response and resilience for transportation.
- More coordination on the rail, air, and water aspects.

Kim acknowledged the complicated nature of the document, and that more can be done to make it more accessible.

Councilor Craddick requested clarification the “last mile connections” of the high capacity transit. She also requested more specific plans around high capacity transit. Councilor Craddick also asked about plans for high-speed rail that connects larger cities in Oregon.

Staff recommended against delving into greater detail on this part of the RTP, and instead recommended creating more specific plans after the RTP’s adoption in 2023.

Staff described the entities involved in these high-speed rail projects, including President Peterson.

President Peterson reiterated the importance of connecting transit, transit termini, and keeping the City of Portland in the loop.

Councilor Hwang asked if there are ways to be more innovative with community engagement. He also asked if there are any models or studies that can be used to determine the employment hubs in the area, information that can be used to inform future transit infrastructure construction.

Staff explained that they are working with Parks, who have implemented some innovative community engagement strategies in the past. Staff also said yes, they have some data like what Councilor Hwang asked for, which will inform their decision-making.

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Councilor Gonzalez asked how proposed projects for the RTP are evaluated and approved. He also asked about the 82nd Avenue JT Plan.

Staff briefly described the feedback and approval process for proposed projects.

Councilor Lewis asked about plans to engage constituents around the whole region.

Staff asked for more direction from Council and JPACT on how to conduct more in-person meetings, but mentioned that they are proposing a meeting/outreach event in June.

Seeing no further discussion, President Peterson adjourned the meeting for a 20 minute break.

5.3 Break (20 min)

5.4 Department Budget Presentation- COO/Council/DEI/GAPD

Council President Peterson called on [Marissa Madrigal] [she/her/ella] Metro Chief Operating Officer, [Andy Shaw] [he/him] Metro Director of GAPD, [Raahi Reddy] [she/her] Metro Director of DEI Ina Zucker [she/her] Metro Director of the Council Office, and Kristin Dennis [she/her] Metro Council Chief of Staff, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the *[Office of the Council/COO/GAPD/DEI Budget Presentation]* to present to Council

The three departments laid out their proposed budgets for the FY 2022-23.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal asked for more information regarding

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DEI's ongoing equity work, asked about their impact analysis, and if the extra requested FTE's would go towards that work. He also asked how many people will we have/need for the next long session of the state legislature. Raahi answered that yes, the plan is to train a group of employees to identify regional disparities, identify their root causes, discern Metro's impact, and find ways to fill those gaps. She also promised regular Council updates over the next six months. She also said yes, their equity work is not exclusive to racial equity.

Andy explained that GAPD is currently recruiting for 2 fulltime positions in preparation for the long session. However, those positions are part of a larger team.

Councilor Craddick asked for more information about why the COO's office was seeking an additional FTE for "accessibility." She also asked for more information about the current land acknowledgement work, and how it differs from past work.

Marissa explained that there are currently 2 employees who are in charge of making sure Metro is ADA compliant, in addition to their other work. Staff is requesting more personnel so they can sufficiently support all of Metro's ADA work, and be more proactive. She also offered to provide individual briefings to Council if requested.

Andy explained that GAPD is requesting additional funds for research contracts, with the aim of creating a more nuanced, culturally and geographically specific approach that more appropriately acknowledges indigenous communities.

Councilor Hwang asked about the Capacity Building Grants, what can be done to build community capacity for organizations outside of the current cohort, and how Metro can work with emerging CBOs in fields like affordable housing.

Raahi explained that there is a great deal of work that is

being done, but staff plans to convene an inter-departmental table of community engagement staff to create more cohesion across Metro. She mentioned the large diversity of groups who applied for funding, which lead staff to realize they needed a more formal approval process.

Deputy Council President Lewis asked about staff's Reimagining Policing work and if there is need more additional capacity.

Staff explained that there is capacity all the way through to the delivery of a plan, and staff is discussing how to implement the plan. Marissa provided more information about the project management team, and applauded their ingenuity and dedication. Council will receive an update in late June.

Deputy Council President Lewis also asked about GAPD's new programs that were unforeseen five years ago, the importance of Metro's regional partners, and if the department has the resources to be successful.

Andy explained that it depends on the specific program, since those programs are shared between GAPD and the Council Office. There is always more need for resources, but he is confident that the current team can maintain those relationships with local/regional partners, who are also strapped. Right now, staff is mainly concerned with adding new projects, rather than sustaining current ones.

Deputy Council President Lewis then asked about a budget note she and Councilor Gonzalez had sponsored.

Ina explained that more information would be coming very soon.

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

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5.5 Department Budget Presentation- OCC

Council President Peterson called on [Steve Faulstick] [he/him] Metro General Manager for Visitor Venues [Cindy Wallace] [she/her], and Katy Shifley [she/her], to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [*Oregon Convention Center FY2023 Proposed Budget Presentation*] to present to Council

Council Discussion:

Councilor Craddick asked if there are any things Council and Metro can do to encourage tourism that they haven't considered.

Steve asked Council to spread the word about the many groups who are working to resolve many issues that discourage tourism in Portland, while still being transparent about those issues. He also mentioned that meeting/event organizers love to hear from elected officials.

Councilor Nolan asked for more information about staff's equity outcome metrics. They also asked how much activity at the OCC has been driven by groups who travel to Portland, and how much is driven by local events.

Cindy outlined one of OCC's equity goals: to increase event bookings from diverse groups from 2% to 7% over the next 8 years.

Councilor Nolan pointed out that Metro's population is 35% BIPOC, and expressed surprise that staff expected it to take 8 years to increase BIPOC participation at the OCC by only 5%. In that time, the BIPOC population will grow and,

proportionately, no progress will have been made at all. Steve explained that the data used to set this goal was provided by Travel Portland, stated his belief that the numbers can be misleading, and clarified that the

BIPOC/multicultural events did not reflect overall attendance by BIPOC populations.

Councilor Nolan expressed their desire to continue these discussions offline, and eventually report back to Council. They stated their disapproval of this particular goal, asked staff to re-evaluate it, and encouraged them to set a more ambitious benchmark that is more proportionate to the total BIPOC/multicultural population.

Staff was willing to re-evaluate their goals. However, the OCC does not have information about total BIPOC/multicultural attendance, which is proprietary information held by event organizers.

Deputy Council President Lewis acknowledged Councilor Nolan's questions and concerns, and asked staff to report back to Council with more information about overnight, one-breakfast events.

Councilor Hwang asked if there are more ways to support local CBO's who wish to hold more events. He also asked how OCC pays for revenue shortfalls.

Katie explained that OCC uses capital reserves to cover revenue shortfalls. Though their current \$10 million reserve balance is above their minimum amount, it is not ideal for OCC's financial health. It will take more careful and intentional investments over the next couple years to reach a healthier amount, as revenues bounce back.

Steve explained how OCC and others in the industry have worked to support local, culturally specific CBOs, including the establishment of My Peoples' Market.

Councilor Rosenthal also believed the equity metric was misleading and not well understood. He asked if OCC conducts post-event surveys to hear their reactions and how welcome they felt at the OCC, and if the survey data would be accessible.

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Cindy explained that, during the pandemic, staff added 2 questions to their survey that asks event organizers and guests to rate how welcome they felt. Though OCC only surveys local groups, while Travel Portland surveys national groups, Travel Portland has incorporated those 2 questions into their surveys as well. The data will be accessible, but Cindy added that this survey implementation was quite recent, and the data will be much more useful in about 1 years' time.

Councilor Gonzalez wondered if there are any discounts or financial incentives to encourage more participation by BIPOC groups.

Cindy mentioned some past incentives and promotions specifically for BIPOC groups. Currently, OCC is working with each individual group and customizing their package based on their needs. Every BIPOC group receives discounts in some shape or form. She added that OCC prioritizes getting more participation from these groups over revenue generation. Steve also brought up the Visitor Development Fund, and explained how groups must meet a certain return-on-investment threshold. OCC has lowered that threshold for diverse groups, so they may more easily access VBF dollars.

Deputy Council President Lewis added that, with the new conference hotel, Portland has been put on "more lists," and has the capacity to hold larger conventions.

Councilor Craddick followed up Councilor Gonzalez's question by asking if there is a support system in place that can help up-and-coming organizations who are looking to hold more national conventions, particularly BIPOC/multicultural groups. She also expressed her appreciation for Council's conversation and asked how they can encourage smaller organizations, those that are too small to use the OCC, to make use of Portland's other

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venues.

Steve explained that those kinds of supports exist, but they are not formal systems. He added that Travel Portland serves as a hub for venue businesses and do a great job connecting organizations with venues, while also creating exposure for Portland's other amenities.

Cindy added that OCC approaches national and local organizations differently, and staff is proactively seeking out outside business. Steve extended an invitation to next week's "State of the Industry" event, hosted by Travel Portland.

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

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Marissa Madrigal provided this week's COO Communications via email.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

Deputy Council President Lewis updated Council regarding a round table held by members of Metro's congressional delegation and HUD Secretary Fudge. Discussions were around how we are working on the current housing crisis.

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8. Adjourn

Deputy Council President Lewis adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Kim
Nathan Kim, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	PowerPoint	4/26/2022	2023 RTP Council Presentation	042622c-01
2.0	PowerPoint	4/26/2022	Council, COO, GAPD, DEI Budget Presentation	042622c-02
3.0	PowerPoint	4/26/2022	IBR Program Update to Metro Council	042622c-03
4.0	PDF	4/26/2022	RTP Amendment Letter of Agreement	042622c-04
5.0	PowerPoint	4/26/2022	OCC FY 2023 Proposed Budget	042622c-05
6.0	PowerPoint	4/26/2022	I-205 Toll Project (PE Phase) RTP Amendment Presentation	042622c-06