

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
929-205-6099 (toll free)

**Council work session**

**10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Present:** 4 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

**Absent:** 3 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Shirley Craddick, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Work Session Topics:**

10:35 Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grants Proposal

Deputy Council President Lewis introduced [Marta McGuire] (she/her), Metro, [Courtney Patterson] [she/her], Metro, [Jim Quinn] [he/him] to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the [*Disaster Debris Reserve and Grant Program*] to present to Council.

Staff introduced the proposed Metro Disaster Debris Management Reserve, to help fund cleanup after the increasing number of climate disasters.

*Council Discussion*

**Deputy Council President Lewis** expressed her support for this program, and noted that multiple jurisdictions within her district have been affected by natural disasters and are still trying to clean up debris months later.

**Councilor Rosenthal** asked if debris from climate disasters would go to a regulated, hazardous waste landfill. He also asked how hazardous material would be separated from regular debris. Finally, he asked if it would be wise to set a cap on the reserve fund.

Jim clarified that yes, though it depends on each case, the debris will typically go to a specialized landfill.

Courtney also clarified that this fund is designated for

smaller natural disasters. In the case of an earthquake, which Councilor Rosenthal mentioned, Metro would have access to all its strategic reserves.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** asked how the reserve would be funded and how Staff will make sure it is responsive to the episodic nature of climate disasters. Jim clarified that the grant program would only be implemented after a qualifying disaster takes place and, though the overall guidelines have been established, the funding details would be settled afterwards. Courtney added that the reserve would cover 50% of local jurisdictions' estimated costs upfront, and provide the remaining costs upon closeout.

**Councilor Rosenthal** asked to clarify who would determine which disasters qualified for reserve funding and how. Jim explained that, though they are still creating those guidelines, Staff envisioned Metro having authority over such determinations so they may fund disasters even if they do not qualify for federal and/or state funding.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** asked if there are sustainable disposal practices for trees, which make up a significant portion of climate disaster debris. With the understanding that disposing them sustainably would cost extra, she hopes this reserve fund will help cover that as well.

Staff had not considered this yet, but liked the idea and would incorporate it into their guidelines.

Staff suggested returning to Council with some sort of formula to determine a potential funding cap.

**Councilor Rosenthal** agreed.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** agreed, though she was more concerned about making sure the funds are used efficiently.

Staff clarified next steps. They would draft an ordinance and bring it to Council next month.

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

10:55 Community Representation on the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC)

### **Community Representation in Transportation Policy (TPAC)**

Deputy Council President Lewis introduced [Margi Bradway] (she/her), Metro and [Tom Kloster] [he/him] to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the [*Community Voices at TPAC*] to present to Council.

Staff provided Council with an update on TPAC's (Transportation Policy Advisory Committee) community member participation and introduced a proposal for more meaningful and sustained community representation.

#### *Council Discussion*

**Councilor Rosenthal** had multiple thoughts:

- He asked Staff to clarify the 3 alternates' role on TPAC.
- He asked would Staff select the CBOs to work with.
- He took issue with the Council President being the sole arbiter of all the CBOs selected.

- Finally, he encouraged Staff to consider other forms of equity, not just racial equity, when selecting CBOs.

Tom clarified that, after a recruiting window, the Council President presents applications to Council for their approval. He also clarified the role of alternates as those who stay up to date and step in when other members have to step away. They would be “emerging professionals” and the alternate position would help them gain more experience, like an internship.

Margi added that TPAC membership comes with a lot of work, they review all of the technical work done by Staff, and it can be difficult to balance that with proper community representation.

**Councilor Nolan** supports this work and applauded Staff’s efforts.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** clarified Metro’s equity goals which start from a racial equity core to address all forms of equity. She also had one concern: that representatives may become delegates for their CBOs rather than speak as individuals. So long as that is addressed, she fully supports Staff’s work.

**Councilor Rosenthal** agreed, and recommended leaving some ambiguity in Metro’s guidance so representatives and their CBOs have the freedom to do what they feel is best.

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

11:25 Discussion on Congestion Pricing Policy for the 2023 RTP Update and Oregon Highway Plan Toll Policy Amendment work

Deputy Council President Lewis introduced [Alex Oreschak] (he/him), Metro, [Erik Havig] [he/him], ODOT, and [Zoie Wesenberg] [she/her], Oregon Toll Program to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the [*RTP Congestion Pricing Policy Development Presentation*] to present to Council.

Staff provided an update on the Regional Congestion Pricing Study and their initial recommendations.

*Council Discussion*

**Councilor Nolan** recommended including more specific climate goals as part of the recommendations.

Margi clarified that the more specific climate goals will be outlined in the Climate SMART Strategy.

**Councilor Rosenthal** warned that the average commuter is unfamiliar with the technical terms used by Staff, and they should be cautious when using it. He also had multiple suggestions regarding the wording in the recommendation, and would provide them to Staff offline.

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked when a program like this will go live and who are all the participating groups. He then shared an ongoing question he has: how the established goals for this program will affect rate setting, revenue generation, and spending.

Margi clarified that they are only discussing policy during this work session, and they anticipate the first project to implement tolling will be I-205/Abernathy, with proposals coming from ODOT and WSHDOT.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** believes that “Safety” and “Diversion” should be two separate categories and that diversionary impacts deserve more specific attention.

**Councilor Rosenthal** had a question and a suggestion:

- To what extent will ODOT expect and need Metro’s assistance in community engagement?
- When doing public communications and engagement, Metro should try to adopt the “Google Model,” to proactively answer the 5 simplest, most common possible questions.

Margi appreciated the suggestion. She added that the more agencies speak with one voice, the easier it is to conduct public engagement. However, ODOT will be doing most of the public engagement.

Erik Havig from ODOT echoed Margi’s comments.

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked why there have been so few low-income tolling exemptions and support programs. Zoie Wesenberg from the Oregon Toll Program did not have an answer, but believes it is a great question to investigate.

**Councilor Rosenthal** asked three questions:

- If the draft policy can be found on ODOT’s website.
- If Staff has considered differential pricing based on factors like emissions.
- If potential diversions have been considered, and what rate would prevent those diversions from becoming a problem.

Erik explained that the draft policy can be found on the Oregon Highway Plan’s website and that the draft includes language on diversion. Staff has explored differential pricing based on income and other socio-economic factors, but not based on vehicle. The primary goal of congestion pricing is to “keep traffic flowing,” and Erik was unsure if pricing

based on vehicle type would help reach that.  
Margi added that there will be informal and formal opportunities to provide comments to ODOT in the future.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** pointed out that not all areas have viable alternative routes for diversion. She also hopes that, as work on tolling continues, that alternative forms of tolling like pay-to-park, are included.  
Erik acknowledged both comments and thanked Deputy Council President Lewis.

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

#### **12:25 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:  
Metro is monitoring a possible extreme heat event.

#### **12:30 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- **Councilor Gonzalez** thanked everyone who came to the Chehalem Ridge ceremony.
- **Councilor Rosenthal** informed Council that he and Councilor Gonzalez would be presenting to the Beaverton City Council later in the evening.

#### **12:35 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Lewis adjourned the Metro Work Session at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



*Nathan Kim*  
Nathan Kim, Legislative Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF June 21, 2022**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Powerpoint	6/21/22	Disaster Debris Reserve and Grant Program	062122cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	Powerpoint	6/21/22	2022 TPAC Reform Council Presentation	062122cw-02
<b>3.0</b>	Powerpoint	6/21/22	RTP Congestion Pricing Policy Development Presentation	062122cw-03