



## **METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)**

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2022

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Buck (Chair)  
Mark Shull  
Vince Jones-Dixon  
Carmen Rubio  
Gordon Hovies  
  
Ed Gronke  
Kirstin Green  
Gerritt Rosenthal  
Mary Nolan  
Christine Lewis  
Nadia Hasan  
Brett Sherman  
Alex Howard  
Thomas Kim  
Diana Perez  
Omar Qutub  
Terri Preeg Riggsby

### AFFILIATION

City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County  
Clackamas County  
City of Gresham, Second Largest City in Multnomah County  
City of Portland  
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Special Districts in Washington County  
Citizen of Clackamas County  
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County  
City of Happy Valley, Other Cities in Clackamas County  
Port of Portland  
TriMet  
City of Vancouver  
Citizen of Multnomah County  
Special Districts in Multnomah County

### MEMBERS EXCUSED

Denyse McGriff  
Pam Treece  
Ted Wheeler  
Brian Cooper  
James Fage  
Temple Lentz  
Brian Hodson  
Shusheela Jayapal  
Steve Callaway  
Peter Truax  
Luis Nava  
Mark Watson

### AFFILIATION

City of Oregon City, Second Largest City in Clackamas County  
Washington County  
City of Portland  
City of Fairview, Other Cities in Multnomah County  
City of North Plains, City in Washington County outside UGB  
Clark County  
City of Canby, City in Clackamas County outside UGB  
Multnomah County  
City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County  
City of Forest Grove, Other Cities in Washington County  
Citizen of Washington County  
Hillsboro School District Board of Directors, Governing Body of a School District

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Elizabeth Amira Streeter

Nafisa Fai

Anthony Martin

AFFILIATION

Citizen of Multnomah County

Washington County

City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County

OTHERS PRESENT: Carol Johnson, Chhabi Koirala, Colin Cooper, Dave Roth, Erin Doyle, Jamie Lorenzini, Jeff Gudman, Jessica Engelmann, Jillian Schoene, Katherine Kelly, Laura Kelly, Sadie Mae Palmatier, Sahaan McKelvey, Sarah Paulus, Stepanie Simmons, Yesenia Delgado.

STAFF: Alex Oreschak, Andy Shaw, Anneliese Koehler, Connor Ayers, Jaye Cromwell, Nathan Sykes, Patricia Rojas, Stellan Roberts.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**

MPAC Chair Joe Buck (he/him) called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Metro Staff Connor Ayers (he/him) called the role. Chair Buck declared a quorum.

**2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

*There was none.*

**3. COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her) announced two affordable housing developments that broke ground in the Metro region earlier this month. These were both a part of the 2018 Affordable Housing Bond. Councilor Lewis then discussed Metro grant programs that come out of Parks and Nature bond funding and announced that Metro is considering Parks and Nature levy renewal. Finally, she updated MPAC members on the large scale community visions program.

Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal (he/him) provided updates on more affordable housing projects happening within the Metro region.

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Buck reminded MPAC members that Quarter 3 Supportive Housing Services reports were included within the meeting packet, that the MPAC will be holding a meeting in August, and welcomed Alex Howard (she/her) as a new MPAC member representing the Port of Portland.

Kirstin Green (she/her) announced that Oregon's Land Use Commission just adopted permanent rules for the Climate Friendly and Equitably Communities program, announced the passing of former Director, Jim Rue, thanked MPAC for the tour of Orenco Woods, and welcomed Kelly Reed, a new regional planner, to the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Kirstin put the following link to Director Rue's obituary in the chat: <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/obituaries/ssj063071> and welcomed sentiments for Director Rue's family at: [kirstin.greene@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:kirstin.greene@dlcd.oregon.gov) or [laura.kelly@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:laura.kelly@dlcd.oregon.gov).

## 5. CONSTENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Councilor Terri Preeg Riggsby (she/her) moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Nadia Hasan (she/her) seconded.

**ACTION:** With all in favor, the consent agenda passed.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### **6.1 Factors of Homelessness: Understanding factors that lead someone to lose housing and prevention strategies**

Chair Buck introduced Patricia Rojas (she/her), Metro Yesenia Delgado (she/her) and Stephanie Simmons (she/her) from Multnomah County, Sahaan McKelvey (he/him) from Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI), and Chhabi Koirala (he/him) from the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO).

*Key elements of the presentation and member discussion included:*

Patricia invited each panelist to introduce themselves and introduced the discussion, she asked Yesenia and Stephanie how they built up the emergency rent assistance program.

Stephanie described how Multnomah County built their rent assistance program, highlighting previous partnerships and work done by Multnomah County.

Yesenia added additional information including highlighting that Multnomah County had an existing rent assistance program and how the program shifted when they got the emergency funds.

Patricia asked what strategies jurisdictional partners used to center race in their emergency rent assistance program and how they grew their partnerships with culturally specific organizations.

Yesenia highlighted that people of color are most impacted by systems of oppression in our society and that the need is much larger than the resources available. She also noted the need to invest in these culturally specific organizations.

Stephanie added that Multnomah County has been working on this for a long and highlighted the importance of listening to community partners.

Councilor Hasan asked how local jurisdictions can continue to get better at reaching target populations with these programs.

Yesenia highlighted the importance of acknowledging government's history and how this history can deter community members from feeling safe coming to government for help. She then highlighted the importance of meaningful relationships with culturally specific organizations and helping organizations that are not culturally specific to deliver culturally specific and responsive services.

Stephanie highlighted that the pandemic only exacerbated housing insecurity for people of color but did not start it.

Alex Howard asked if there was a training component as culturally specific organizations were brought in as partners.

Stephanie explained that all partners worked together to support any administrative work.

Patricia asked Sahaan and Chhabi to share what it was like for their organization to lean into the COVID rent assistance programs and what takeaways they had.

Sahaan stressed the challenges that SEI and the people that they serve face and highlighted how these challenges grew during the pandemic. He stressed how much more work still has to be done.

Chhabi highlighted the work that IRCO was able to do during the pandemic

Councilor Brett Sherman (he/him) highlighted the challenge of community members to overcome the stigma around who is struggling with housing insecurity and asked how relationships can be built between various agencies so that rental assistance can continue as a part of the day-to-day fabric of the city.

Yesenia explained the necessity of allocating permanent resources to this issue as people continue to struggle with housing insecurity.

Sahaan stressed that there needs to be an intentional strategy to strengthen the agencies that are doing the work to assist people with housing insecurity.

Councilor Anthony Martin (he/him) asked the presenters if they have data behind culturally specific organizations serving folks who are not of that specific culture and how this plays into organizations' outreach strategy.

Sahaan explained that SEI does have demographic data on who they are serving in each of their programs and make sure they are responsive and inclusive to other communities.

Chair Buck asked how folks on a longer term assistance program are connected to Supportive Housing Services emergency vouchers to create stable assistance.

Chhabi explained the process of supporting individuals who need longer term rental assistance.

Sahaan explained that there is a level of synergy between different programs and the programs have to be able to work together to effectively get people to a place where they don't have to come back for the same assistance.

Commissioner Nafisa Fai (she/her) asked is a conversation like this is planned with representation from Washington and Clackamas Counties.

## **6.2 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Congestion Pricing Policy Development for 2023 RTP and Oregon Highway Plan Tolling Policy Amendment and Low Income Toll Report**

Chair buck introduced Metro Staff Alex Oreschak (he/him) and ODOT staff Gareth Prior (he/him) and Amanda Pietz to present to MPAC.

*Key elements of the presentation and member discussion included:*

Alex discussed the 2023 RTP update schedule, provided planning and project context, discussed community input, the Regional Congestion Pricing Study, and summarized committee work that has been done. Alex highlighted next steps and described the Draft RTP Congestion Pricing Policies.

Gareth Prior put the link to the Oregon Toll Program's Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee recommendations in the chat:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/Documents/EMAC%20Recommendations%20to%20Oregon%20Transportation%20Commission.pdf>

Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal highlighted that the policy should be read as a reduction Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita, not just reduced VMT.

Councilor Martin asked if the policies are ranked.

Alex explained that these draft policies are not currently ranked.

Councilor Sherman asked who the decision maker is on where revenue goes to address diversion mitigation and safety issues. He followed up by explaining that he is concerned that a lot of the RTP language is in complete misalignment of ODOT.

Alex explained that the OTC and ODOT are the ultimate decision makers on this topic but as projects go through the RTP they are required to conform to the RTP. Alex responded to Councilor Sherman's follow up by explaining that there is still a lot of work to be done.

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned that there is a constitutional barrier to taking money from highway tolls and spending it on alternative modes of transit and is an issue that will have to be taken up at the legislative level.

In the chat, Terri Preeg Riggsby thanked Councilor Rosenthal for his comments and agreed that this is a key aspect of the planning process that must be understood if policymakers intend to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with congestion pricing tools

Alex continued the presentation by discussing the RTP update schedule and coordination with Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) Tolling Policy Amendment.

Garet Prior described the Urban Mobility Strategy map and presented on the Low Income Toll Report. Garet described the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee & Oregon Transportation Commission, options for consideration, displayed income thresholds and next steps.

Commissioner Mark Shull asked how local policy makers and stakeholders will be engaged in the investments of the toll revenue.

Garet requested that he circles back to that question.

Councilor Martin highlighted that ODOT be mindful of the administration costs on tolls and advocated for very aggressive funding for discounts for folks at and below 400% of the federal poverty level.

Councilor Rosenthal asked when the comment period ends for the draft Low Income Toll Report.

Garet explained that ODOT would like to get comments in this month because state law requires the report to be finalized by September 15.

In the chat, Garet put the link to draft Low Income Toll Report <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/Documents/Draft%20Low-Income%20Toll%20Policy%20Report.pdf> and the link to the draft Oregon Highway Plan Toll Amendment: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Planning/Pages/Oregon-Highway-Plan-Update.aspx>.

Councilor Sherman asked how individuals who need these resources can get access to these resources.

Garet discussed how abuse of the system can be monitored but explained that abuse of systems like this do not happen often.

Amanda Pietz continued the presentation by providing an overview of the OHP Toll Policy Amendment and addressed the schedule for the project.

Chair Buck asked how tolls will be structured knowing that there are a range of needs that have to be met.

Amanda responded by explaining that policy puts considerations on the table as rate setting occurs but not the direction on how rates will be set. She went on to highlight a few of the considerations that have been addressed in the plan so far.

Chair Buck asked how local policy makers can continue to advocate and weigh in on these tolling decisions.

Amanda highlighted the online public comment form, explained that they can also write a letter for ODOT to consider, and that ODOT will make themselves available for discussion.

## 7. **ADJOURN**

Chair Buck adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stellan Roberts*

Stellan Roberts  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 27, 2022**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
4.1	Handout	07/27/2022	Clackamas County Supportive Housing Services FY21-22 Third Quarter Progress Report	07272022-01
4.1	Handout	07/27/2022	Multnomah County Supportive Housing Services FY21-22 Third Quarter Progress Report	07272022-02
4.1	Handout	07/27/2022	Washington County Supportive Housing Services FY21-22 Third Quarter Progress Report	07272022-03
6.1	Presentation	07/27/2022	RTP Congestion Pricing Slides	07272022-04