

# Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)



Metro

## Minutes

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

10:30 AM

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

**Council work session**

Please note: This work session will be held online.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

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

If you wish to attend the meeting, but do not have the ability to attend by phone or computer, please contact the Legislative Coordinator at least 24 hours before the noticed meeting time by phone at 503-813-7591 or email at [legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov).

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

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

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

### **Work Session Topics**

10:35 Tigard UGB Exchange: Public Engagement Update and MPAC Recommendation

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1](#)

*Council Discussion:*

**Councilor Rosenthal** made one comment and asked two questions:

- He hopes that the area's transportation issues are addressed in the upcoming RTP
- The letter from Clackamas County mentions an industrial land study for possible semiconductor manufacturing, how does this connect to the larger project?
- What happens if some property owners wish to stay within the UGB?

Andy explained that those studies, conducted by the Semiconductor Task Force, are largely meant to assess the viability of building manufacturing plants in the area. The next step would be to assess the financial need of doing so. There are currently no solid plans yet, but there will be many more conversations in the future.

Ted explained that staff intends to do their best to accommodate all property owners, but universal consent is impossible. Staff will address those issues as they arise. Andy added that universal consent is not required for Council to make any UGB decisions.

**Councilor Gonzalez** praised the Planning and GAPD Departments for their exhaustive work. He also voiced his support for investing in development readiness.

**Councilor Craddick** believes the parcels in Damascus are not the ideal for this UGB swap or job growth for multiple reasons:

- She described a great deal of tension and turmoil within Damascus regarding the UGB. There are groups like “Good Morning Damascus” that are open to development, but many strongly oppose it.
- She added that no city in the region is currently able to develop right now, though Happy Valley is closest.
- Finally, Councilor Craddick mentioned the how the geography of the area would make development, particularly waste management, difficult to build, nor do the local water waste treatment facilities have the capacity to take on new customers.

**Council President Peterson** thanked Councilor Craddick for the information and hopes that Clackamas County will work alongside Metro on this project.

**Councilor Lewis**

- Part of the concern is the UGB swap would be removing “destinations” which would further take away infrastructure investment to those areas. She clarified that those “destinations” were not areas of interest for investment to begin with, so no funding is being taken away from the area.
- She added that the project is already a month behind, further delays would increase costs which defeat the purpose of affordable housing. She hopes to keep the work going and asked Staff for a timeline for the next few months.

Staff is ready to send out postcards to notify homeowners that their properties are up for consideration for the UGB land swap. Staff also plans to present an ordinance for its first hearing and public comment period in early January.

**Councilor Lewis** then asked if communications with constituents make it clear that the parcels of land up for consideration will remain identical for zoning purposes.

Staff said yes.

**Councilor Nolan** agreed with Councilor Craddick’s comments, and thanked Councilor Lewis for emphasizing timeliness with this project. Alleviating the current housing crisis is their “touchstone” on this project, and it seems that Council is ready to proceed.

**Council President Peterson** agreed that Council is ready and hopes to get a clearer timeline for the project, so they can better coordinate with other local jurisdictions to close the massive regional housing gap. Seeing that Council seems to agree with MPAC’s recommendation, Council President Peterson directed Staff to move in that direction. She also recommended Staff narrow down their possible options so they can notify property owners earlier and have better

conversations with them.

Based on Council's wishes, Andy proposed moving forward with Option 3 and Council agreed.

**Councilor Craddick** asked if Option 3 includes lands around Highway 212 and if it would affect any future plans for it.

Staff clarified that Option 3 does not change the designation of the land adjacent to Highway 212.

**Councilor Lewis** asked if Option 3 includes the same land as Option 2 on the East side, with the addition of an extra parcel of land in the South next to Oregon City. She also asked if Staff has the flexibility to accommodate any property owners who want changes made to the plan.

Andy clarified that Option 3 has slightly less land than Option 2 on the East side, and Staff has that flexibility

11:35 TriMet Forward Together Service Hours Restoration Plan

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson called on Ally Holmqvist and [Grant O'Connell] to present on Service Concept Review presentation.

*Council Discussion:*

**Council President Peterson** emphasized that the region needs to think about public transportation as a tool for economic development, like every other region. She hopes Trimet and Metro can work proactively to do this. Grant agreed and Trimet would get right on it once they

have finished revising their long-range plans.

**Council President Peterson** left the meeting and appointed Deputy Council President Lewis to facilitate the rest of the work session.

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked if there are any plans for alternatives to priced corridors. He also emphasized the importance of coordinating the rollout of tolling alternatives with other jurisdictions.

Grant explained that, to mitigate the effects of tolling, Staff has included bus lines from Tualatin to Oregon City that parallel the corridors in the service concept. To be a viable alternative to tolling, the buses need to run very frequently, but the project is fiscally constrained, so they are in conversations with the State about getting more funds.

**Councilor Hwang** noted that the presentation indicated a 38% increase in resources and asked if Staff's models showed they can meet their outlined goals despite potential economic headwinds. He also asked about the impact of fare increases on future ridership.

Grant explained the 38% increase in resources: Trimet has been running at reduced capacity in preparation for economic headwinds. Staff did see a slight decrease, but ridership then continued to increase. They also received federal funds. He also explained that Staff's model forecasts a fare increase. However, in his experience, ridership is unaffected by fare increases.

**Councilor Rosenthal** had multiple thoughts:

- He agreed with Councilor Rosenthal and Council President Peterson's comments.
- He asked if there is space in the service concept to add supplemental express routes.
- He also asked, if implemented, when Staff would

re-evaluate and make changes to the routes. Staff will be evaluating the routes every year. Grant clarified that the concept plan actually all express buses that run in tandem with regular bus lines and explained that, in reality, commuters only save a few minutes by using them. Instead, Staff believes reallocating resources so regular bus routes run more frequently is more efficient.

**Councilor Craddick** asked when the plan will be fully implemented. She also echoed Councilor Gonzalez's comments on alternative transportation modes. Finally, she hopes future comprehensive plans will include transit lines. Right now, hiring staff is the main barrier to implementation. Staff believes that, at the current rate of hiring vs attrition, it will take about 3-6 years to begin implementation.

**Councilor Nolan** asked two questions:

- What other domestic and international models has Staff considered to reduce overall trip times. For example, have they considered running more frequent, smaller capacity buses?
- Has Staff considered quality-of-life improvements, like cleanliness and friendliness, that would increase ridership?

Grant explained how smaller, more frequent buses will not necessarily save money when compared to a more uniform fleet. Different buses would require different parts which increases maintenance costs. Cost of labor, the main expense, would also remain the same regardless of fleet size and uniformity. Councilor Nolan's second question is best answered by Trimet's Safety and Security Department.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** invited any other Trimet employees in attendan

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**Deputy Council President Lewis** invited any other Trimet employees in attendance to answer Councilor Nolan's question about amenities and quality-of-life improvements.



Tara O'Brien (she/her) informed Council that Trimet is investing more in ridership recovery, particularly in safety and cleanliness. However, increasing accessibility and viability of transit services remains the most cost efficient method of increasing ridership. Staff would be happy to share more information with Council offline.

**Councilor Gonzalez** mentioned his interest in some form of monthly subscription that gives riders access to Trimet and other automobile alternatives like scooters.

**Councilor Hwang** asked how extra service hours created by adding new lines could be reallocated. He also asked, in terms of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), if there are things that Council should think about differently. Staff sees this concept plan as showing what Trimet's services should look like right now. If Staff finds opportunities to reallocate service hours they will try to do so, but the current plan does not include it. Regarding TOD, Grant does not believe there are any gaps and recommends they follow their current trajectory.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** had multiple comments:

- She noted that the most impactful changes come from ODOT's tolling plan
- She noted that Staff's list of significant changes did not include the I-154 and it needs to be "aggressively communicated" that changes are coming to it.
- She believes commuters make transit decisions based on time and money, so fund planning and planning should not remain separate.
- She applauded Staff for their work on the concept plan but voiced concerns about fare increases when many cannot afford them to begin with. Overall, she believes they have gone "two steps forward, one and

a half steps back.”

Tara clarified that the Forward Together plan includes service improvements to the I-205 area in anticipation of the increased demand created by tolling. She also shared Trimet’s equitable revenue report with Metro staff and would be happy to share that with Council as well.

**Deputy Council President Lewis** quickly added that any tolling mitigation plans need to go into effect before tolling.

**Councilor Nolan** is also concerned about the fare increase. They encouraged Trimet to, in the name of equity and climate, work with “regional allies” to find alternative ways to fill their funding gaps. They would be more than happy to help do that.

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

#### **11:55 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Andrew Scott provided an update on the following events or items:

- Andrew thanked everyone for coming out to the zoo lights and wished everyone a happy thanksgiving

#### **12:00 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis said the zoo lights was a fun experience.
- Councilor Hwang went to the Chinese American community and had a lot of thoughtful conversations.

#### **12:05 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:30

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p.m.

Respectfully submitted,