

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2023

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center Council Chamber,
<https://youtu.be/8Gmb6OzBobs>, <https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or
877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar ID: 615079992)

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: 3 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Mary Nolan, and Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal

Excused: 2 - Council President Lynn Peterson, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Public Communication

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

No members of the public chose to provide testimony.

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

3. Resolutions

3.1 **Resolution No. 23-5305**, For the Purpose of Adopting the 2023 State Legislative Agendas

Attachments: [Resolution 23-5305](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Deputy Council President Lewis called on Anneliese Koehler (she/her), Metro, and Jenna Jones (she/her), Metro, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Metro Council Legislative Agenda Adoption Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation detailed both the legislative priorities, key legislative issues expected to be addressed at the state level, and legislative principles, guidelines that will direct staff on

issues not specifically expected to be addressed through bills, to expect through the following year. Jones informed the Council of key legislative issues expected to affect Metro policy measures in programs, primarily surrounding economic prosperity, gun safety, housing and homelessness, land use, transportation, and waste management. Koehler explained how the legislative principles will serve to provide additional guidance on regionwide issues and conversations.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal questioned if any bills have been introduced that would provide grant support to small businesses amidst high inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Koehler noted that a piece of legislation aimed at softening inflationary impact for businesses has been discussed, although it would likely target larger industrial firms rather than small businesses. She stated that they would continue to advocate for such a bill that would aid small businesses.

Councilor Hwang asked if there are differences between Oregon and other states in regards to federal Right to Repair legislation.

Jones highlighted that New York recently passed the first Right to Repair bill in the nation, stating that Oregon will be the second state if the bill makes it through Congress. She remarked that federal representatives have been present in Right to Repair coalition meetings, helping to uplift best practices and provide clarity on the federal direction.

Councilor Rosenthal followed up Councilor Hwang's question by asking if the passage of Right to Repair laws in nearby states such as California would have a beneficial

effect on Oregon.

Jones stated that the legislative affairs team keeps track of the actions of other states, particularly California as it is a leader particularly in the waste management field.

Councilor Simpson called for an amendment to Exhibit B of Resolution No. 23-5305 to add a new General Principle 5 on a vibrant and sustainable workforce. He read aloud the language of the proposed amendment.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren clarified that general practice is to have a motion on the original motion before proposing an amendment, calling for a motion to be made before Councilor Simpson's proposed addition.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Nolan, that this Resolution was adopted as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Gonzalez

- 3.2 **Resolution No. 23-5302**, For the Purpose of Completing a HIP Fund Exchange with ODOT for Less Restrictive Federal Funds Allowing them to be Applied as Supplemental Funding Support to Seven Metro Regional Flexible Fund Allocation Funded Projects to Help Offset Inflation Cost Increase Impacts

Attachments: [Resolution 22-5302](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Deputy Council President Lewis called on Ted Leybold (he/him), Metro, and Margi Bradway (she/her), Metro to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the HIP Fund Exchange and Allocation to

present to Council.

The presentation overviewed the current planning path for the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), a \$3.85 million dollar allocation given to Metro to invest in assorted highway development projects. Leybold explained the major priorities that should be addressed with these funds, as well as providing project recommendations for investment. A detailed timeline displaying the next steps of the process was provided.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Hwang asked staff about the methodology of creating the recommended projects list, questioning if other factors outside of financial viability were considered in the process.

Leybold stated that all of the recommended projects had been previously funded through the Regional Flexible Fund process, meaning that they have all been considered from a variety of angles.

Councilor Hwang followed up his previous question, asking if there were any projects that had received Regional Flexible Funds that were not included in the recommendations.

Leybold clarified that the included projects are all ready to obligate funds in 2023; other projects that received Regional Flexible Funds that are not currently ready to obligate funds were not considered for recommendation.

Councilor Rosenthal questioned if staff expects that these funds will be able to be actively used for the 2023 summer construction season.

Staff stated that the speed at which funds will be able to be used differs on a project to project basis, although they noted that some projects would be able to utilize this money as soon as the summer of 2023.

Councilor Simpson asked if there are contingency plans built into the cost estimates for each project.

Leybold stated that there are contingency expectations built into the proposals, stating that projects typically start with a high contingency rate that is gradually lowered as more aspects about development progress.

Councilor Nolan expressed concerns that we place a very strong emphasis on equity and environmental protection, allocating funding to the projects that serve these goals the best rather than those that are merely ready for development sooner.

Leybold remarked that there is a great deal of flexibility with how these funds can be administered, stating that Metro's values of equity and climate can be adequately served through the HIP allocation.

Councilor Hwang asked about the scale of development that will be able to be achieved with a \$3.85 million dollar investment.

Bradway commented that there is a high amount of uncertainty regarding project pricing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and high inflation rates, however she noted that they have worked with project leaders to ensure that the scope of the project matches the investment.

Councilor Simpson questioned what percentage of contracted firms will be minority owned.

Bradway stated that there is no current projection for what percentage of contracted construction companies will be minority owned, however she remarked that Metro is leveraging its position as an MPO to bargain for greater equity standards in the development process.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this Resolution was adopted..

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Rosenthal

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Gonzalez

4. Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- The effects of inflation have been altering internal operating costs at Metro; these impacts will be discussed in greater depth during the budget allocations in the spring.
- Martin Luthor King Jr. Day is approaching and is a paid holiday.

5. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- **Councilor Rosenthal** recounted the events of a presentation by a federal reserve bank.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy Council President

Lewis adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Kain, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2023

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
3.1	PowerPoint	01/12/2023	State Legislative Agenda Update Presentation	011223c-01
3.2	PowerPoint	01/12/2023	HIP Fund Exchange Presentation	011223c-02