

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, February 9, 2023

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center Council Chamber,
<https://www.youtube.com/live/NerNLeRJc-M?feature=share>,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or 877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar ID:
615079992)**

Council Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Public Communication

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

There were two members of the public that testified:

- Maddie McDonald expressed anger and frustration for how Metro handled the Supportive Housing Services Personal Income Tax. McDonald had received a notice in the mail saying that their 2021 tax was overdue and may have to pay a fine and interest. McDonald added that Metro did nothing to inform taxpayers about the tax bill.

Council President Lynn Peterson stated that the Chief Operating Officer would make a statement after public communication was closed.

- Les Pool, Clackamas County, OR mentioned that Metro should be more careful of how it spends money. Pool mentioned that homelessness issue is getting worse, but that it is important to get the best value out of the money. Pool encouraged the Council to talk about the impact of tolling on highways.

Council President Lynn Peterson called on Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro, Chief Operating Officer

Madrigal mentioned that Metro had been receiving complaints from people that did not know about the tax and that a penalty waiver was available. Madrigal added that staff are working on other options to

address taxpayer concerns.

Councilor Nolan apologized for the oversight that Metro and the vendor did on the tax. They look forward to solutions of the staff. Councilor Nolan also thanked the people that testified for coming and bringing their points.

Councilor Rosenthal apologized for the confusion. He mentioned that there were people that used Intuit and TurboTax, who were not informed about the tax. Councilor Rosenthal added that with the money from the tax there has been progress, such as preventing people from losing their homes. He looked forward to recommendations from staff.

Madrigal clarified that TurboTax had included a link and a question or statement for certain incomes about people possibly owing the tax.

Councilor Lewis commented that she has had multiple conversations from her constituents. She was glad that there was now a coordinated effort. Councilor Lewis asked about how they are resolving the issue now and make it easier for people to start paying the tax when they change jobs or a change in the value of the dollar.

Madrigal explained that the American tax system is complex and trying to integrate into it is challenging. She mentioned that there are situations that cannot be predicted, such as if a person that sold stocks and their income goes above the threshold. Madrigal stated that there is no way for staff to receive that information until a person file their taxes. She explained that the city of Portland received the

information at the end of last year and was able to determine who, among those that met the threshold, had paid the tax or not.

Councilor Lewis mentioned that this was discussed at the oversight committee and that communication can be better.

Councilor Hwang asked about the steps to coordinate better with Metro's jurisdictional partners, specifically the City of Portland and Multnomah County? He also asked how to streamline the various taxes with the same mechanism for the public.

Madrigal stated that staff intended to align with current collection practices. Staff did their best to mirror the City of Portland tax collection as well as Multnomah County to hopefully streamline for the public. She expressed the importance of fully understanding various solutions before communicating, so that there is not more challenges.

Councilor Hwang commented that Metro and the jurisdictional partners should work as a team and that there needs to be better coordination amongst them.

Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that the Council is commitment to exploring options, so that people are not burdened by the tax. He stated that they and staff will do their best to make this right.

Council President Peterson thanked those that received mail on the tax and added that staff is working on more options for solutions. She thanked staff for their work on how to do it best to not cause more confusion.

Councilor Simpson stated that they need to take care of working people and make the process cleaner and smoother in the future.

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

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 **Resolution No. 23-5308**, For the Purpose of Advancing Metro Eligible Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Projects for Inclusion in the State Fiscal Year 2023 UPWP and Completing a Scope Change for an ODOT Americas with Disabilities Curbs and Ramps Project

**A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Nolan, to adopt items on the consent agenda.
The motion passed by the following vote:**

Aye: 7- Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang and Councilor Simpson

Attachments: [Resolution No. 23-5308](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

4. Ordinances (Second Reading)

4.1 **Ordinance No. 22-1487**, For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Section 2.02.010

Presenter(s): Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro
Carrie MacLaren (she/her), Metro

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 22-1487](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 22-1487 took place on January 26, 2023.

Council President Lynn Peterson called on called on Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro, Chief Operating Officer, to answer questions.

There were no questions.

Council Discussion:

There was no council discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this Ordinance was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang and Councilor Simpson

5. Other Business

5.1 Budget Retreat Follow Up

Presenter(s): Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson called on Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro, Chief Operating Officer to present the *Budget Retreat Follow Up*.

Staff pulled up the *Budget Retreat Follow Up* to present to Council.

The presentation began with the recap of the Budget Retreat. During the recap, Madrigal discussed the financial forecast, the equity analysis and metrics, and the council priorities. Madrigal then discussed the council priorities of environment, housing, and economy. One of the priorities mentioned for environment, was transit access and pedestrian infrastructure. For housing, one priority was Supportive Housing Services. Lastly, one of the priorities for the economy was venue investments and programing. Madrigal commented on the budget timeline and the next steps. Staff will develop a proposed budget in March and the

Council will receive the proposed budget in April. Staff mentioned setting strategic vision that allows bold moves, guides work across departments, and uses metrics to understand progress. Madrigal also mentioned strategic framework, which includes Metro's commitments and guiding principles, as an appropriate container for the strategic targets. Staff noted Metro-wide strategic targets in environment and climate, housing, and economy. The presentation ended with several discussion questions for the Council.

Council Discussion:

Council President Peterson asked if the lens would still be racial equity. She also suggested to add how Metro is helping to create jobs through public-private partnerships in bringing land into urban growth boundary, getting land ready for employment, waste management and other sectors.

Madrigal explained that racial and climate justice are within the strategic framework and guiding principles.

Councilor Rosenthal commented that these are good goals, but there is no vision for a 21st or 22nd century transit system for the future growth of the area. He mentioned that the area he represents has inadequate transportation. On transportation, he noted that more can be done in terms of climate protection and in stimulating the economy. He thought that transportation was crucial.

Councilor Hwang commented that there could be recession in the future and people are having a hard time right now. He noted that the work should be focused on working people and that should be clear. He asked how they can alleviate the challenges that working people are facing such as housing, transit, and inflation.

Madrigal mentioned that the framework and the principle of shared prosperity can help with definitions. She also mentioned that they tried to think about who pays for the decision, who benefits from it and where the burden falls. Madrigal added that using the principle of shared prosperity into that could help alleviate the challenges for working people.

Councilor Simpson thanked staff for presentation. He mentioned workforce development and having conversations about public-private partnerships. He expressed concerns about people forever renting and wanted more people to have homeownership opportunities.

Councilor Nolan asked if the targets are not voted on until June, how could they be used by department directors to form their budgets.

Madrigal noted that the process to choose targets must have criteria, such as a target that Metro can make a difference in. She gave housing as an example. They can focus on that area in next year's budget and the target would further enhance that. For example, a five-year goal of a certain number of housing units. Currently they are doing as much as they can, but now they want to put a number to it.

Council President Peterson had the same question as Councilor Nolan. She expressed the need to be careful of which target is chosen and to have more conversation. She suggested that they go to community and thought leaders to make sure the target is the right measure and vetted. She mentioned that it is hard to expedite when asking people for input. President Peterson also mentioned that staff are working proposals on all three strategic target categories.

Councilor Nolan stated that setting those goals are important. They expressed concerns that the more this is delayed, the more it says that inequity is ok with the Council.

Councilor Nolan mention that there needs to be investment in infrastructure to areas less dense areas or farmland before expanding. They mentioned that there needed to be ways for the Council to support local governments as they develop UBG land and be inviting to those that want to develop.

Councilor Lewis thanked staff for their work. She noted that the three areas were the right direction, but they need to look at outputs and inputs. Councilor Lewis suggested that Metro should be aware of how the system of taxes and fees relate to each other. She commented that transit is connected to the environment, since 40 percent of the emissions reduction is from people not using single occupancy vehicles. Councilor Lewis mentioned that the approved transit budget is limited but hoped that they would look at transit funding.

Councilor Gonzalez commented that he felt that Metro underperforms on grants and suggested that department directors use leverage to get more money for transit projects. Councilor Gonzales also commented that Metro has an important role in tourism, especially with the venues. He wanted more on procurement and policies with partner agencies. Councilor Gonzales added they should have a plan for supporting small and BIPOC businesses in the region too. He felt that housing, like the production pipeline, was vague and that they need to do everything they can. He also expressed the importance of the budget cycle because of the reopening of so many things.

Madrigal stated that when they set targets, they need to make sure there are multiple ways to achieve them. For example, the ways in housing are the Affordable Housing Bond, helping cities develop their own housing or lobbying the state legislature. She mentioned that transit was a tactic to get certain outcomes. Madrigal also mentioned using coordination in have a collective impact.

Council President Peterson stated the three main areas are important and they need to figure out how transit can help. She commented that they need to include themes of leverage and racial justice into each area and then to make goals for the region.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed that there needs to specific targets, a focus on workforce and making lands available. He commented that Metro is the only entity with a regional perspective on transportation and to make a regional vision.

Councilor Nolan stated that budgets identify your proprieties. They also wanted priorities that help Metro to make choices to put their human and financial resources in certain directions. Councilor Nolan stated that if venues influence the economy, then they should talk about that.

Council President Peterson looked forward to choices that are vetted with the community and to prioritize them. She hoped that there would be one goal per area but acknowledged that there are multiple vague and conflicting goals.

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- Invited the Council to the GPI Best Practices Dinner on February 16th and to the GPI Best Practices Panel on February 17th
- Nature and Neighborhoods capital grants are due February 14th
- Metro was awarded \$2.4 million in transportation safety grants

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and

events:

- **Councilor Gonzalez** gave updates on several meetings, which included an OMPOC meeting, a Westside Multimodal Improvement Study Steering Committee meeting, and the Region 1 ACT meeting. He also mentioned that the “Say Hey!” event hosted by Partners in Diversity was happening later that night.
- **Councilor Lewis** attended the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde opening celebration for the Great Circle Recovery Center. She also gave an update on the Supportive Housing Services Tri-County body meeting.
- **Councilor Rosenthal** mentioned that he went with Councilor Lewis and Councilor Simpson to the Zoo Foundation meeting. He also attended a public meeting regarding the Kingston Terrance plan.
- **Councilor Simpson** gave an update on the urban flood safety and water quality district. The levy system on Marine Drive needs updates and encouraged councilors to support the project.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jemeshia Taylor, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2023

| ITEM | DOCUMENT TYPE | DOC DATE | DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION | DOCUMENT No. |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.0 | Powerpoint | 02/09/2023 | Budget Retreat Follow Up Presentation | 020923c-01 |