



600 NE Grand Ave.  
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oregonmetro.gov

JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

September 21,

2023

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Juan Carlos González  
Christine Lewis  
Paul Savas  
Nafisa Fai  
Carley Francis  
Steve Callaway  
Mingus Mapps  
Ashton Simpson  
Joe Buck  
Susheela Jayapal  
Ali Mirzakhali  
Rian Windsheimer

AFFILIATION

Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Clackamas County  
Washington County  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Cities of Washington County  
City of Portland  
Metro Council  
Cities of Clackamas County  
Multnomah County  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Oregon Department of Transportation

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Travis Stovall  
Anne McEnery-Ogle  
Shawn Donaghy  
Sam Desue  
Curtis Robinhold

AFFILIATION

Cities of Multnomah County  
City of Vancouver  
C-Tran  
TriMet  
Port of Portland

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chris Ford  
Jef Dalin  
Ty Stober  
Scott Patterson  
Scott Langer

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Cities of Washington County  
City of Vancouver  
C-Tran  
Washington State Department of  
Transportation

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Markgraf, Aaron Kuehn, Chris Smith, Indi Namkoong, Sarah Iannarone, Shawne Martinez, Zachary Lauritzen, Eric Hesse, Jess Zdeb, Brett M., Sara Ryan, Peter Swinton, Glen Bolen, Dwight Brashear, Mark Ottenad, Caleb Winter, Doug Riggs, Doug Allen, Tara O'Brien, Shoshana Cohen, Matt Ransom, Laurie Lebowsky-Young, Joseph Auth, Jim Howell, Jessica Pelz, Tia Williams, Jeff Owen, Jean Senechal Biggs, John Serra, Matthew Hampton, Gerik Kransky, Sarah Paulus, Dave Roth, Cara Belcher, Allison Boyd, Jaimie Lorenzini, Jamie Stasny, Will Farley, Cindy Pederson, Alan Lehto, Stephen Roberts, Sara Wright, Brenda Bartlett, Mike Bezner, Margi Bradway, Jamie Snook

STAFF: Connor Ayers, Jeff Kain, Kim Ellis, Kelly Betteridge, Carrie MacLaren, Catherine Ciarlo, Kate Hawkins, Michelle Bellia, Eryn Kehe, Nubia Martinez, Betsy Emery, Anneliese Koehler, Tom Kloster, Malu Wilkinson, Lake McTighe, Ted Leybold, Roger Alfred, Matt Bihn, Ramona Perrault, Ally Holmqvist, Grace Stainback, Marielle Bossio, Lisa Hunrichs, Victor Sin, Jaye Cromwell, Eliot Rose, Molley Cooney-Mesker, Grace Cho

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

JPACT Chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Gonzalez called the role and declared a quorum.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Metro staff Connor Ayers read aloud the instructions for providing public testimony.

Indi Namkoong testified about the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), stating that the remaining months before the project's adoption should be centered on addressing the lagging safety, equity, and climate goals of the plan.

Zachary Lauritzen similarly spoke to the RTP's shortcomings, arguing that projects that elevate the safety, equity, and climate goals of the project should be prioritized over expensive road expansions that do not address these targets.

Aaron Kuehn expressed concerns that the RTP's project list does not accurately reflect the plan's stated goals.

Chris Smith raised suggestions for reducing the dominance of freeway projects in the RTP, as well more accurately accounting for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Sarah Iannarone suggested that JPACT consider aligning the project list of the RTP with other Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) transportation projects to ensure efficient usage of funds and resources.

Shawne Martinez expressed that he would like the RTP to prioritize walking, biking, and transit projects over roadway improvements.

## **3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR**

Metro Planning and Development Department Director Catherine Ciarlo (she/her) shared the names and ages of traffic victims during the month of August:

Frederick Kortlever, 90, Erez Mayer, 50, Braden Josiah Lungren, 20, Mark Hendrickson, 48, and Glen Terrence Dante, 33.

Chair Gonzalez noted that the ODOT staff has shared that forecasted revenues for 2027 – 2033 that there will only be \$70 million of funds available statewide that are not already committed to existing OTC programs. He noted that there is a proposal to direct these funds to supplement projects with dedicated revenues to achieve

more policy objectives. Chair Gonzalez called for Metro staff to draft a letter on behalf of JPACT for this funding cycle based upon existing regional policies.

ODOT Regional Manager Rian Windsheimer noted that ODOT welcomes opinions from JPACT on how these \$70 million should be allocated.

Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas expressed concerns that ODOT and the region as a whole do not fully understand the revenue potential of their programs. He stated that he would like to view the letter.

Air Quality Administrator Ali Mirzakhali stated that he would prefer for the letter to ask ODOT to address their weakened revenue stream, rather than simply making an argument over what the remaining \$70 million should be allocated to.

Chair Gonzalez summarized the discussion, then restated the importance of the letter.

Washington County Commissioner Nafisa Fai questioned when a conversation about unbundling ODOT projects within the RTP could be held.

Ciarlo remarked that Metro staff will get to work with drafting a letter that will be shared with the committee members.

Commissioner Savas requested clarification on the process of approving the letter before it is sent to ODOT.

Chair Gonzalez clarified that the drafted letter would be presented to JPACT members at the October meeting, where it would then be voted on to be sent.

Chair Gonzalez moved along to the next agenda item.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Gonzalez noted that there was one item on the consent agenda, Consideration of the July 20, 2023 JPACT minutes.

**MOTION:** City of Portland Commissioner Mingus Mapps moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by Ali Mirzakhali.

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

#### **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **5.1 Better Bus Update**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Metro staff Kelly Betteridge, TriMet staff Cara Belcher, and TriMet Director of Government Affairs Tom Markgraf.

Markgraf introduced this agenda item, speaking to the importance of improving the speed and reliability of the

transit system.

Betteridge provided context on the Better Bus program, explaining that the project aims to improve the speed, reliability, comfort, and convenience of TriMet's bus system. She overviewed policy tools and mechanisms that could be utilized to reach the project's goals. Betteridge noted that the program focuses on data to better analyze where improvements to the system may be made. Belcher explained the outreach and engagement efforts, sharing community feedback on the project.

City of Vancouver Mayor Pro Tem Ty Stober suggested that other transit systems such as C-Tran be included into the scope of the project.

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal remarked that she would like to see a greater focus on improving transit options for East Multnomah County.

Mirzakhilili questioned the role of the workshop in collecting community input.

Belcher clarified that the workshops are held to involve government agencies in the development process.

Commissioner Savas highlighted that congestion should be considered not just on freeways, but on arterial roads as well.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

## **5.2 2023 Regional Transportation Plan: Overview of Public Comment, Key Topics to Address and Next Steps for Finalizing the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy for Adoption**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Metro staff Catherine Ciarlo and Kim Ellis.

Ciarlo thanked committee members and staff for their consistent engagement and work towards developing and refining the RTP.

Ellis's presentation provided updates on the timeline and decision process of the RTP, overviewed the mayor themes from the public comment period, and previewed the process for recommendations on key policy topics. She stated that the key takeaways from the public comment period were demand for more investment in transit, walking, and biking, a greater emphasis on the safety and climate goals, project-specific feedback, and installing strong accountability measures to ensure proper project implementation.

Chair Gonzalez asked for the committee's response to Metro staff working with ODOT to request an unbundling of their RTP items, as well as increasing discussion on funding and revenue streams in future JPACT meetings.

Markgraf remarked that TriMet is supportive of further JPACT discussion on identifying funding streams.

Commissioner Savas commented that there should be a greater focus on making data-driven decisions. He expressed concerns that congestion pricing may result in worsening our climate objectives.

Mirzakhilili questioned what opportunities are available to make further revisions to the RTP in the October

meeting.

Ellis remarked that staff will bring forward their recommendations made at the October Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) meeting to the October JPACT meeting.

Commissioner Jayapal expressed support for future revenue stream discussions. She then asked committee member Windsheimer why ODOT's safety bucket of RTP projects cannot be unbundled.

Windsheimer stated that it is difficult to program specific policy needs for the future based on existing data, going on to provide several examples of why it is advantageous to have flexible funds for safety projects rather than clearly allocated funding for specific projects.

Commissioner Jayapal suggested that there may be an intermediary solution, allowing for the flexible usage of funds while also making it clearer what amount of funds may be allocated into specific programs.

City of Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck highlighted the importance of improvements to local streets, remarking on the difficulty of attaining funding for these improvements.

City of Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway reinforced that the RTP needs to be viewed through a regional lens. He signaled his support for ongoing funding discussions.

Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson expressed his disappointment with the direction of this RTP, remarking that the projects within the RTP clearly do not align with the stated goals, or the interests of the community.

Commissioner Savas questioned Windsheimer on when a funding discussion would be able to take place. He commented that we need to increase transit ridership, but that the efforts to accomplish this have been ineffective, particularly in Clackamas and Washington Counties.

Windsheimer remarked that the I-205 expansion is in the process of being moved to the RTP's constrained project list, reflecting the delay in the tolling plan. He responded to Commissioner Savas, expressing that he would like expansive conversations on funding across the region.

Metro Councilor Christine Lewis noted that there are positive externalities that emerge out of many of the projects on the RTP's list. She remarked on the importance of aligning city-level needs for the transportation system with the broader region and RTP.

Ciarlo noted that it is possible to amend the RTP's project list to incorporate items such as the Nexus project list.

Commissioner Savas discussed the importance of viewing congestion and tolling through the impacts on communities next to freeways. He highlighted again that he would like to see a greater focus on data-driven decision making.

Ellis remarked that both data and community input will be used to guide the system and shift the implementation process accordingly.

Commissioner Fai expressed support for using both data and community input to guide the decision-making process.

Chair Gonzalez briefly summarized the discussion, remarking on the next steps for the committee before the RTP's adoption. Seeing no further discussion, he moved onto the next agenda item.

**6. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS**

Windsheimer discussed several road improvements across the region. He briefly discussed a new project to utilize the shoulder of I-205 for bus routes.

**7. ADJORN**

Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 9:31 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey Kain  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 20, 2023**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
3.0	Presentation	09/21/2023	Fatal Crash Slide	092123-01
5.1	Presentation	09/21/2023	Better Bus JPACT Presentation	092123-02
5.2	Presentation	09/21/2023	RTP Presentation JPACT	092123-03
	Testimony	09/21/2023	Combined JPACT RTP Comments	092123-04
	Testimony	09/21/2023	Wilsonville Testimony Regarding RTP	092123-05