

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
[https://www.youtube.com/live/DUCmwR3EZIo?
si=SXpaO-175MKZwUvP](https://www.youtube.com/live/DUCmwR3EZIo?si=SXpaO-175MKZwUvP), <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID:
615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

Council work session

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/DUCmwR3EZlo?si=SXpaO-175MKZwUvP>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Work Session Topics:

10:30 82nd Avenue Transit Project Update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson introduced Kelly Betteridge and Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara from Metro, who were here to present the 82nd Avenue Transit Project Update.

The staff promptly brought up the presentation.

Summary of the Presentation:

Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara comprehensively covered the first segment of the presentation, delving into the project's objectives and conditions, committee and community engagement, the timeline, and the upcoming steps. Mros-O'Hara highlighted the substantial \$185 million investment from local, state, and federal sources earmarked for 82nd Avenue. She emphasized that the primary aim of the project is to enhance transit speed, reliability, capacity, safety, comfort, and accessibility along 82nd Avenue. Mros-O'Hara also pointed out that this project would serve a population of 70,000 individuals, which accounts for 4% of the region and is steadily growing.

Following Mrs-O'Hara's presentation, Kelly Betteridge delved into the subsequent section, elucidating what Metro needs to do to establish a more favorable locally preferred alternative (LPA). Betteridge provided insights into the technical review that the staff is conducting, focusing on ridership, access, spacing, and on-board data collection. She mentioned that there are four different options regarding the north terminus.

Mrs-O'Hara subsequently concluded the presentation by discussing the milestones and tasks scheduled from the fall of 2023 to the fall of 2024.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Hwang expressed his anticipation for reaching the LPA stage and applying for federal funds in the upcoming year.

Councilor Lewis noted she is looking forward to the state legislature's allocation of \$5 million to Metro's transit team to fulfill community objectives.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired about the time savings associated with the proposed route and whether dedicated lanes for buses were planned, also expressing concerns about connectivity.

Betteridge clarified that they are still refining the LPA and projected a time savings of 15-20%. She indicated that the project is still under development as they work on the design.

Mrs-O'Hara explained that they are thinking about the best way to connect people to their routes and are talking to the public on this matter.

Councilor Rosenthal asked whether 82nd Avenue is classified as a freight route.

Mros-O'Hara explained that it is a freight route as it holds the highest classification for automobiles and freight, as well as the second-highest classification for bikes in Portland.

Councilor Simpson thanked the staff for their dedicated work and thanked Councilors Hwang and Councilor Lewis for their leadership roles in this project. Councilor Simpson also emphasized the importance of improving safety on 82nd Avenue.

Councilor Gonzalez asked what the project's length is in terms of distance.

Mros-O'Hara explained that it spans approximately 10-11 miles.

Councilor Gonzalez then asked about Metro's commitment to the 82nd Avenue area.

Mros-O'Hara explained that Metro is actively collaborating with community development corporations to develop affordable housing and grants in general.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed eagerness for the project's next phase and extended thanks to the staff.

Councilor Lewis mentioned the importance of considering the amenities in the area, particularly for college students, and emphasized the need for seamless connectivity.

President Peterson urged the staff not to procrastinate, stressing the importance of proactive planning. She encouraged them to consider how their collaboration within the same geographical area could be leveraged.

Furthermore, she emphasized the necessity of establishing a clear vision for their objectives.

Councilor Hwang recognized the various Metro departments working on the corridor and expressed his appreciation for their efforts.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there is an overall vision for the redevelopment of 82nd Avenue and who is leading the initiative.

Mros-O'Hara explained that there are two components to taking over jurisdiction, involving safety improvements, pavement issues, and collaboration with the City of Portland to enhance access to intersections, making it safer for pedestrians to cross streets. She then explained that the city's land use plans also align with these goals.

President Peterson explained that she was driving last night and witnessed someone almost get hit by a vehicle and noted there is a lot more to work on.

End of discussion.

10:50 2023 RTP - Discussion and Feedback on Draft Staff Recommendations on Key Policy Topics

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Ordinance 23-1496](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Exhibit C Part 1](#)
[Exhibit C Part 2](#)
[RTP Schedule](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson introduced Kim Ellis, RTP Project Manager, Metro, and Catherine Ciarlo from Metro to

present on the 2023 RTP - Discussion and Feedback on Draft Staff Recommendations on Key Policy Topics.

The staff brought up the 2023 RTP - Discussion and Feedback on Draft Staff Recommendations on Key Policy Topics presentation to Council.

Summary of Presentation:

Ellis went over the timeline plans, engagement touch points, staff recommendations, overview of Metro five key Staff recommendations. First the investment emphasis recommendations which include; project list adjustment, regular reports on safety investments, improve project list development and review process for the 2028 RTP. Secondly the pricing policy implementation recommendations to ensure NEPA processes address local and regional concerns related to tolling, apply RTP pricing policy in future JPACT and Metro Council decisions on toll projects, and reflect Metro Council values in tolling and pricing implementation. Third the regional transportation finding recommendations to secure more funding for projects that advance regional goals. Fourth, climate tools and analysis recommendations to improve tools to better inform policy and investment decisions that impact climate. lastly, mobility policy implementation to finalize the mobility policy to inform system planning needs and support local land use decisions.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Gonzalez expressed that the RTP is making good progress and noted that there are a lot of good recommendations and feedback to implement in the coming weeks. Councilor Gonzalez then mentioned that the five

recommendations look good and explained that he wants a sense of confirmation from staff to approve it so he and council can follow up with JPACT with the information.

Councilor Lewis mentioned that the five recommendations are the right ones and will make the right impact in the city.

Councilor Nolan acknowledged the positive changes that have been made and expressed her anticipation for the next steps. However, she highlighted that the current approach does not constitute a comprehensive plan; rather, it appears to fulfill obligations to federal funding agencies. She urged the staff to adopt a bolder approach and initiate efforts that align with a truly 21st-century vision.

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned that there are great values in this proposal however a project list is not a vision for the future and that Metro needs to approve the project but emphasized that it is important to think about the future. Councilor Rosenthal then explained that the congestion from I-5 going north needs to be solved and there are things that need to be more specific language about planning and that Metro needs to have more authority over regional planning issues

President Peterson noted that the projects will spark a conversation and that it is important to work on it soon and then asked staff if the model accommodates roundabouts.

Ellis noted that it does not.

Councilor Nolan agreed that roundabouts can help traffic flow and mentioned that it should be considered on the list.

Ellis explained there will be a tool list to better evaluate

better travel and her hope is to bring that tool set soon to council and that their research center staff are starting to get to into that conversation.

President Peterson then let staff continue to the rest of the presentation.

Mros-O'Hara then spoke about Metro council tolling Values statement and introduced discussion.

Councilor Lewis clarified that the draft represents the collaborative efforts of Metro's team to identify the necessary elements for tolling to be effective in our region, a process strongly influenced by the C4 process. She went on to highlight the significance of empowering local government with the opportunity to communicate issues with tolling to both the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and the Governor's office. Councilor Lewis explained that the opportunity for local government to go to the OCT and the governor office to list off things that are not working in tolling and proposed products is important.

President Peterson thanked Councilor Lewis for all the work she had been doing then encouraged staff to move forward as soon as possible.

Councilor Hwang mentioned that low income residents travel further for work and that is one of the things Metro wants to solve but it could be addressed through the welcome fair program which needs to be highlighted more.

Councilor Nolan noted that this region does not have an adequate transportation system, and then explained that if the value system focuses on the fringe to the determinant of the core of the region then she cant support it as that it will

lead to implementation that contradicts Metros policies, she then asked if this value statement will be used to support on Metros behalf on any particular decisions and if so she would like to know what that will be.

President Peterson noted that there are a series of venues that Metro is apart of and the value statement will be used to convey to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Oregon Transportation Commission (OCT) and the legislator and at some point the whole council will have to weigh in on the decision.

Councilor Nolan told President Peterson she does not believe that statement is reflective in the language and that the document allows for advocacy for any position.

President Peterson explained that this allows a conversation to negotiate.

Councilor Nolan then explained that if she supports this then she wont know what she is supporting and what she is directing someone who is speaking on her behalf to push for.

President Peterson explained that it is an irritative process and will come back with specifics from the conversations.

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned that there is a word misplaced on the last sentence on the second page and then explained that this is an improvement from what he had previously seen and that it is good to see regional equity in the proposal but emphasized that words matter in this case and that Metro should come up with a model tolling plan.

Councilor Gonzalez thanked councilors and staff for the

hard work they had done then told staff that he appreciates the language around the low-income toll program and that the second page is really clear for what they are urging Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to do and then mentioned that he wants to weigh in, in order to be able to frame Metros values as he feels comfortable with what is framed in the proposal and then announced he looks to moving forward with the proposal.

Councilor Nolan asked councilor Gonzalez what the deal breakers they all can agree on are.

Councilor Gonzalez emphasized that revenue sharing is an integral component, along with long-term oversight and accountability, direct funding for local tolls and highways, and the need for a toll system that promotes investments to provide people with a superior alternative to driving

Councilor Nolan explained that was helpful and is searching for that kind of language in the proposal then mentioned that the document presented is not good enough.

President Peterson explained that they are trying to take the letter that went out with the signatures and implement metros values on it.

Councilor Lewis mentioned she wants to make an attempt at what everyone can agree on and then followed with the following topics: Trust and respect to local jurisdictions, revenue share, diversion, transit has to be funded, and then climate is paid for.

Councilor Nolan told Councilor Lewis she wishes they started off with that conversation and that is a direct conversation of what Metro stands for.

Mros-O'hara noted they can direct staff to reflect those key bullets.

Councilor Nolan explained that Metro should look at the 15 bridge as that will create a lot of diversion.

President Peterson asked if she can get a thumbs up to move forward with a letter with her name and Councilor Lewis name on it as president and deputy president and would like it to come from the entire council and then encouraged council to add on anything they would like to as a public official.

Councilor Nolan asked that she would like to take a look at the letter before it is signed and released.

President Peterson explained to Councilor Nolan that there is a majority to move forward already and then asked staff to complete the letter.

Mros-O'hara announced that her team can create a draft by the end of the week.

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned to President Peterson he agrees and that there should be points from the comments Councilor Nolan made.

End of discussion.

11:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

- Marissa Madrigal mentioned that King city invited her, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Hwang and Councilor Rosenthal to attend an event. She explained that it was nice to be in community and check in with folks she does not get to see too often and mentioned that

King City is grateful to Metro for the support they received through the planning processes.

- Marissa Madrigal then mentioned that Metro held the second Willamette Cove field day and there were educational and hands on activities.

11:35 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that Metros Parks department has been working on a community choice program and there at 35-36 projects up for vote to allocate up to \$2 million and encouraged council to take a look at it and engage.
- Councilor Gonzalez then spoke about how he spoke at an event called Latino Built and that they launched an apprenticeship program for bicultural/bilingual folks.
- Councilor Lewis noted she attended the Willamette Cove Field Day and that it was incredibly powerful to be there and see the vision in the future on that site.

11:40 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:31pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant