

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfTg79Bus2w>,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or  
888-475-4499 (toll free)

**Council work session**

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

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Duncan Hwang, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

**Excused:** 1 - Ashton Simpson

**10:35 Work Session Topics:**

10:35 State Legislative Agenda Discussion

Attachments: [Attachment 1](#)  
[Attachment 2](#)  
[Attachment 3](#)  
[Attachment 4](#)  
[Attachment 5](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Jenna Jones (she/her) and Anneliese Koehler (she/her) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the State Legislative Agenda Discussion PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters shared information to The Council regarding the 2024 State Legislative Agenda. They shared that there are new people running for office, which will impact the 2024 legislative session. They discussed that they will be having a legislative breakfast at the Oregon Zoo on February 1. The presenters also shared major themes for the short session, what to expect, they discussed the legislative priorities, and asked for confirmation from the Council that they are headed in the right direction.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the housing memos and the language it had around housing and environmental readiness. He noted that it felt different from Metro's messaging. He asked if that language been consistent with Metro.

Anneliese Koehler responded that it is consistent language that is trying to allow for the multitude of concepts and priorities to facilitate housing production and being nimble and responsive while adhering to land use codes. She added that a lot of that balance is relying on Council's expertise.

Councilor Gonzalez acknowledged that for their jurisdictional partners, they want to be at the table with solutions. He also noted that there is a gap with the amount of responsibility that the Metro region has taken on with supportive housing, the connection between behavioral health and having the state adequately fund the core pieces of PSH. He stated that he would like to see a stronger voice in terms of the kinds of resources that need to be delivered for the SHS measure.

Council President Peterson responded that the three counties likely have a strong legislative agenda, and Metro would be backing them.

Jenna Jones added that they work with the three jurisdictions that work with services to make sure they are compatible with SHS. She added that as they see measure 110 unfold, and as people are experiencing substance use treatment, they need housing throughout that treatment. She added that they will look at SHS and its connection to substance use. Jones noted that there are also many other factors that go into behavioral health.

Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that he does not think it is enough to only back the other jurisdictions because he thinks that Metro needs to have its own voice for that.

Council President Peterson added that they need to discuss county needs, and that she does not know if they need to try to address all of measure 110's initiatives. She stated that housing is a priority and then wrap-around services are crucial to add on to that, and they are very dependent on the measure. Council President Peterson noted that they need more attention from the state on these issues or people will land into experiencing chronic homelessness.

Councilor Gonzalez noted that he is hesitant about this approach.

Councilor Hwang noted that there is a childcare crisis and asked if they may consider adding childcare funding to their priorities.

Jenna Jones responded that that fits perfectly with economic recovery, and they have heard from community groups and organizations that childcare funding is definitely needed.

Councilor Hwang additionally asked if they are saving transportation needs for the long session.

Koehler responded that yes, that is the case. She added that there will be a lot of conversation to create a state package for 2025.

Councilor Lewis noted that land use UGB is appropriate for the session, and they do not have a lot of opportunity to put more on the board. She added that providing the right

information at the right time should be a focus, as well as the UGB and ensuring that areas can access land for housing and economic development. She emphasized that those areas are where they should spend their time. Councilor Lewis added that education budgets and learning loss connect with each other and requested that to be translated that to k-12 and workforce development. She also noted that they did a great job of spending \$10 Million on trash, and they should do it again. Councilor Lewis noted Councilor Gonzalez' point, adding that the readiness to talk about civil commitment as a state is important and being part of a coalition of local governments would be great, but that cannot get done in 35 days.

Jones added that many of the county partners are working on civil commitment. She stated that there is an overhang of housing production right now that is overshadowing wraparound services. Jones noted that they are hearing that for the Measure 110 conversation, they will link as many things as they can when it comes to behavioral health services, but there is only a finite amount of cash to be spent in this session.

Councilor Nolan asked about industrial site readiness, questioning whether there has been discussion on white collar site readiness. They added that there is an intersection between affordable housing and industrial spaces that could be refitted to help with employment centers and other services for people in need. Councilor Nolan asked if there is capacity for jobs and housing that are already available and questioned if there a way for us to put it on the table.

Koehler responded that yes, they are looking at ground development and looking at different forms of land use, which are actively being discussed as solutions.

Councilor Nolan also questioned funding, asking about implementing the governor's recommendations without increasing taxes. They asked if Governor Kotek will be bringing forward more than a \$20 million funding request, and asked who else will step in and urge or require that the responsibility be taken up.

Jones responded that inside the recommendation from Governor Kotek's, they have ideas for people, but fewer tangible steps. She noted that there is more funding on housing, there is \$65 Million for shelters that she is requesting, and more money for other areas as well. Jones added that commercial conversion for housing and shelters have been a discussion, but they need to include safety and infrastructure upgrades, so some of the governors' recommendations have site-specific dollars. Jones will get back to them on commercial conversion.

Councilor Nolan stated that they should push for this to be a partnership, not just for people to not have to pay taxes.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about actionable items, and for land use, questioned how the League of Oregon Cities objected to some decisions. He additionally asked how they are coordinating with the League of Oregon Cities.

Jones responded that for the task force, some are actionable items, some have nexuses, while others are priorities. Jones added that because it was published yesterday, they need more time to look at it.

Koehler noted that they have been working hard with the partners and are in close coordination with them.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if they have points of conflict with League of Oregon Cities.

Koehler responded that there were many points of agreement, and a few points of conflict, but they worked hard to find common ground with each other.

Council President Peterson stated that they have a budget note that will help them get to where they need to go, which will not be there until the long session.

11:00 FY 2024-25 Budget Development Workshop

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Chief Operating Officer, Metro, Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer, Metro, Cinnamon Williams (she/her), Financial Planning Director, Metro to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the FY 2024-25 Budget Development Workshop PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters discussed the regional economic update, Metro's outlook, department forecasts for the budget equity tool, and the COO review of budget priorities. The budget priorities include climate resiliency in policy, operations, and capital improvements, strengthening IT capacity, investing in DEI capacity, support for the strategic targets implementation, auditor recommendation implementations, and maintaining competitive pay scales. They shared economic snapshots, provided the economic context of last year and this year. Presenters shared that travel and tourism recovery is currently stalled, and that inflation is easing but interest rates are continuing.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Nolan asked about adding a priority for reducing the homelessness population in the region, noting that they need to be explicit about that in the region. They also asked if there are priorities for bringing in county partners along with a database that can be used to direct evidence-based practices in the region.

Councilor Gonzalez remarked that he feels proud about the budget equity tool, noting that he wants to galvanize the next chapter of implementation. He stated that he was surprised with WPES with revenues and expenses, asking what the built in assumptions are about growing revenue.

Brian Kennedy responded that they set the fees that generate the revenues. He stated that they are making assumptions and connecting it to the forecast. He noted that they look at the size of the budget and the fee design, and then set rates. He remarked that they will be keeping rates solid as much as they can.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the gap in planning, development, and research. Councilor Gonzalez asked if they could build more around how they can foresee helping that department stay stable, and asked what resources they have to support that.

Kennedy clarified that the planning, development, and research dept is not unstable, but rather there are natural grant cycles, and they cannot forecast for grants in the future. He noted that the planning dept is exceptionally good at keeping that relatively stable, but it is hard to predict, and they will continue to support them.

Council President Peterson stated that as the Council, they



have not discussed when they want to update 2070, so she noted that she is worried about having a conversation with the community about this.

COO Marissa Madrigal asked for clarification.

Council President Peterson clarified that they need to do something about scope and ramp-up time. She noted that all of the counties will need ramp-up time and they should be preparing for that.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed that the 2040 plan needs updating. He also questioned the DEI support, noting the subline that indicated a review of system programs, and asked how granular that gets to be. Councilor Rosenthal also asked about continuing the improvement of the strategic initiatives, agreeing with Councilor Nolan that homelessness should be one of the strategic initiatives. He added that he would like to see exactly what those strategic initiatives are.

COO Madrigal responded that the Council is setting strategic targets and once those targets are set, departments will determine how they can individually contribute to those goals.

Councilor Rosenthal responded that it is a good list, but that that element will need to be further fleshed out.

Councilor Lewis stated that she appreciated the scope at looking at cross-departmental initiatives. She highlighted the importance of the work on venues, stating that it is an understanding of what the public venues really need, and they have been trying to compete in the marketplace where there is little relief. She noted a priority of workforce partnerships in terms of looking at how they make

investments and building supportive housing services. Councilor Lewis also added that a revised regional investment strategy is important in terms of how they package those.

Council President Peterson remarked that they would be looking at other options for parks funding, and asked where they were.

Madrigal noted that they discussed to receive funding for parks.

Council President Peterson responded that that needs to be clarified.

Madrigal responded that she would investigate that.

Council President Peterson noted that they are all concerned about the dependency of being on a five-year cycle.

Councilor Hwang noted that exploring long-term funding strategies would be great, as well as creating new revenue streams and being clear about objectives. He also discussed the climate task force, asking how they may prepare the region and obtain federal funds, as well as creating a long-term housing strategy to build sustainability. Finally, he noted that they need to make sure that there is some consideration of social innovation work.

Council President Peterson stated that there are financial opportunities that she would like to see as they move through the budgeting process. She added that when looking at dates of moving forward with the sports center, they need to discuss financing going forward, such as for funding for cultural performance. Council President

Peterson added they should look at planning grants for that so they can create their own events as they bring things to the convention center.

Madrigal responded that in the Spokane podium, they anchor their calendar with 6 or 7 events each year, so that is something that they want to look at.

Council President Peterson asked how they will proactively deal with this downwards trend.

Councilor Nolan noted that the Timbers-Thorns operation has applied to support outdoor concerts, so they will be competing that as well.

Councilor Lewis underscored that it is not just live concerts, but Live Nation, which is a very large organization.

Councilor Rosenthal noted that the Council has a ton of ideas, and asked what the best way to get these things together on the table so they can discuss them and select the ones they can pursue.

COO Madrigal responded that any ideas or interests get aired at the public table, such as this, and then staff can help develop the proposals and concepts. COO Madrigal added that the best way to do this is to first have a public conversation, then circle back to get for information later.

Councilor Hwang discussed that in the budget process last year, they had budget hearings, but not many people testified. He asked if they would have a public vetting process in the future.

Council President Peterson responded that an email just

went out about that.

COO Madrigal added that as a team, they have debated this and stated that they need to do a better job of communicating the impact of these budgets, because sometimes the data doesn't feel entirely relevant to people.

There being no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved onto the next agenda item.

#### **12:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

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

- Thanked everyone who attended the Metro mixer last Thursday, noting that those events tend to be very fruitful. She thanked GAPD for organizing that.
- Updated the IT team that they are displaying new control systems in the chambers, and they will do that while they are on recess. These new control systems will hopefully make the room more adaptable.

#### **12:10 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis stated that there is a summit coming up in January and Metro can roll out the strategic indicators there. She noted that they have a table and Metro is being used in their Promo.
- Councilor Lewis reported that GAPD helped host the mixer in Fairview and it was well attended. They co-hosted with Fairview in one of their food halls, and they welcomed Metro to come back.
- Councilor Lewis attended the Governor's Clackamas County listening tour and got to sit with her over lunch last week and they discussed housing, tolling, and other items.
- Councilor Lewis stated that yesterday, they had task

force meeting with WPES and it was well attended and they only had 8 minutes at the end for Q & A because they got so much information about their inputs and fiscal work with WPES.

- Councilor Lewis noted that an email was sent out about the village sites to make sure folks living there have coats and toys during the holidays.
- Councilor Nolan noted that they have nearly completed the common understanding phase of WPES task force and are in the debating philosophy phase. Councilor Nolan added that the staff have been very helpful.
- Council President Peterson stated that the Biden administration put \$8.2 billion for a high-speed rail system and Vancouver got a small grant to improve the scoping process so they can get more money. She added that they need to have an ask for 2025.
- Councilor Rosenthal mentioned that the WCCC met and came to a consensus on many projects, and everyone seems excited. He added that even the larger cities who will be getting the money are worried that the smaller towns get enough money too.
- Councilor Gonzalez shared that Metro submitted comment to OTC chair Julie Brown and they are looking at a low-income toll. He remarked that there is further commitment to study poverty levels.
- Councilor Gonzalez also added that Washington county Hillsboro reopened 75 shelter pods and it was really great work.

**12:38 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Georgia Langer*

Georgia Langer, Legislative Assistant