

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf2v-KOwMCY>,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free)

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Public Communication

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

There were none.

3. Presentations

3.1 Results of the Supportive Housing Services Audit

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

Council President Peterson introduced Brian Evans, Auditor, Metro, Paoa Wandke, Metro, and David Beller, Metro, to present on the Supportive Housing Services Audit.

Staff pulled up the Results of the Supportive Housing Services Audit PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters shared that this audit was conducted to follow up on the audit recommendations from the 2021 audit, to determine if there were gaps or overlaps in the government program structure, and to determine if the process was sufficient and accurate. They stated that 75% of the funds were dedicated to population A, who are currently experiencing homelessness, and 25% of the funds were dedicated to population B, who are those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Auditor Evans noted that

although the system has improved, there are many areas in need of improvement. Presenters shared that the system was found to lack in the ability to measure quality of services and the efficiency of funds. They shared that while Multnomah County reported to have 85% of the population of people experiencing homelessness, they only received 45% of the funding. They shared that there may be room to change funding allocation. The Regional Oversight Committee did not appear to evaluate administrative spending, although it was detailed in the ballot measure, but it seems that they were unaware of this responsibility. Presenters noted that the outcome and financial reports do not align, and the language used by the SHS system are inconsistent with the language used by HUD. The presenters found that data reliability was underdeveloped, incomplete, or inconsistent. They shared that counties may be using different assumptions with how they interact with data, so the data can be misleading. The presenters discussed how Metro's reporting suggests that eviction prevention is synonymous with preventing homelessness and noted that SHS reports should be careful about the language use to describe program outcomes. The presenters also shared that this audit includes 18 recommendations. Seven of these recommendations were designed to ensure timely and ongoing program oversight, six focused on improving the reliability and consistency of program data and reporting, and five were to help the Tri-County planning body identify programs that ensure equitable services and planning.

Metro Staff Response:

COO Marissa Madrigal stated that there is clearly much work to do to improve and strengthen this program. She shared that they have placed 5,576 people get housing and helped over 18,000 people avoid homelessness through eviction prevention. She shared that they are experiencing

consequences that impact the ability to deliver services quickly and transparently. COO Madrigal noted that they have a long path to correct this work and stated that she hopes the proposed actions and solutions included in this audit and management's response pave the path to more effective.

Council President Peterson invited Patricia Rojas, Metro, and other staff to join in the council discussion.

Council Discussion

Councilor Hwang asked what they can do to help, and what specific improvements do they need that requires Council support.

Patricia Rojas responded that they have a lot more work to do and there will be a lot of need for guidance and direction from Council. She shared that they will be coming to Council to ask for guidance along the way. She shared that they want to get guidance on whether the committees are working well and anything else they may need.

Councilor Hwang asked how they will be making the policies that are outlined in the audit's recommendations.

COO Marissa Madrigal noted that they can help the program by setting strong values on accountability, excellence, and quality, while also balancing partner relationships. She stated that there was a bit of time spent on establishing authority and the government structure needs more collaboration.

Councilor Lewis remarked that people experiencing homelessness often lose their homes due to compounding issues that are often unique to them. She shared that they

need to stay focused on the systems level to determine what they are achieving. Councilor Lewis asked about data reporting, asking how they have changed the data reporting, and how they will continue to change the data reporting.

Rojas noted that the Continuums of Care (COCs) are being focused on and this means that there are three different ways of gathering information, talking about it, and methodologies. She shared that they must do a lot of work to determine disparages for the county. Rojas shared that in year one they did ad hoc reports. She stated that in year two, they have made progress towards the collective view across all three counties. Rojas added that they have made changes in their financial reporting including that they have updated the templates. She noted that they have hired a data lead who is a leading expert in the state who will help with HMIS.

Councilor Lewis noted that having this new hired person as the leading expert of HMIS does not help if HMIS data is not available, and she urged them to get that piece together soon.

Councilor Rosenthal asked what steps can be done in one year, and what needs more time.

Auditor Evans noted that the staff report discusses this. He remarked that they are unfortunately having issues about who gets the data and who gets to make the reports, which has been difficult for the last four years. He noted that there are tons of issues with HMIS, and that is going to take real collaboration, especially because this discussion has been going on for so long. Auditor Evans noted that the government structure incentivizes spending money, and

that there is no incentive in the current government structure where Metro can intervene in, unless people are not spending money in the right places.

Rojas agreed with Auditor Evans that this does not happen overnight, and agreed with the need for them to great an SHS data collection and reporting program that works. She stated that in terms of program quality and evaluation, they are in year 3, and they have plans to launch program evaluations as stated in the IGAs. Rojas noted that there needs to be enough time for programming on the ground and programming being built. Rojas added that they are on track to launch this improvement, but that it is an ongoing body of work.

COO Madrigal added that they do not have the information to indicate whether quality is being delivered or not, and they cannot direct people to do a corrective action if they do not have that information. She noted that she agrees that this takes a long time, and that the overall balance of power in this structure should be considered.

Councilor Simpson stated that he would like to see better quality of reporting. He shared that with the storm, there were a lot of people impacted by that. Councilor Simpson asked how this audit and the audit from the fall relates to what is needed for communities to have a seat at the table.

COO Madrigal responded that it speaks on the need to have a broad collaboration and making sure that people with lived experiences are being centered in the decision-making process, including people who would challenge the way things are being done today. She shared that those perspectives need to be heard and debated because there is a lot of wisdom that has not necessarily been uplifted.

Councilor Simpson asked what kinds of outreach will be done to ensure that these communities are at the table.

COO Madrigal responded that they are still formulating the timeline and agenda for that table, but they have been soliciting names and looking at the overall composition to make sure that there is geographic and lived representation, and their partners are at the table. She shared that not everyone that they invite will be able to make it, so they will need to work to make sure that there is more than one opportunity to engage.

Council President Peterson noted that people need to know where they are headed and stated that this needs to be a learning environment. She noted that it has taken a long time to build trust. Council President Peterson asked how they will accelerate a trusting environment, as well as a learning environment.

Patricia Rojas noted that things move at the rate of trust. She stated that part of this comes back to the commitment that what they have put in place is working the best that it can. Rojas added that they also need to provide clarity, and they need to have discussions about what fosters trust. She stated that they have a commitment to collaboration.

Liam Frost, Deputy Director of the Housing Department, Metro, noted that there is a sense of urgency and there are areas where staff is working with their partners and peers every day to build trust. Frost noted that they are working with county partners to get that trust, and in some places, it is going very well.

Councilor Lewis mentioned the structural issues of funding

allocation to the three counties as well as the amount of the homelessness population counted in those counties. She noted that the IGA doesn't address those allocation needs and that it is instead embedded in the measure text itself nowhere else. Councilor Lewis asked if they considered other data points such as the other funds towards homeless services and compared them.

Auditor Evans noted that if they look at the SHS dollar and the Point-In-Time count, they could adopt that strategic target right now, and those would be different. He shared that there are many issues with that. Auditor Evans stated that there are too many cooks in the kitchen, and there is a large governance problem. He stated that a lot of the conversation turns to money and there is a structural issue as well.

Councilor Nolan stated that in discussion with trust with the counties, they should also discuss the trust with their constituents. They added that they do not think that the constituents trust them, because the voters have noted that they voted for this four years ago, and they are still seeing human suffering on the sidewalk. Councilor Nolan stated that trust evolves from a lot of different things, and among them is consistency. Councilor Nolan remarked that the consistency that too often gets ignored is the trusting relationships with stakeholders who are performing well, and those who are not performing well are getting away with it. They stated that they are more concerned about making sure that the partners, allies, and stakeholders who have been doing a good job are the people who need to be reinforced and encouraged. Councilor Nolan also asked about how they will continue to evolve and improve their conversations with stakeholders while also upholding the need of human beings who are experiencing homelessness.

They stated that they need to focus on the most urgent thing, which is human suffering. Councilor Nolan also stated that they need to make sure that they are progressing, and to let the Council know if they can help with it.

Council President Peterson noted that this is the issue of their time. She added that there is a cost of doing nothing, and that if they do nothing, it will cost them lives, livability, and economic viability.

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

4. Resolutions

4.1 Resolution No. 24-5377 For the Purpose of Adopting the 2024 State Legislative Agenda

Attachments: [Resolution 24-5377](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson called on Annelise Koehler (she/her), and Metro Jenna Jones (she/her), Metro to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Resolution No. 24-5377 For the Purpose of Adopting the 2024 State Legislative Agenda PowerPoint present to Council.

Presentation summary:

Presenters shared their new contract lobbyists. They stated that they will have a legislative breakfast on February 1, and that there have been over 40 people involved in that. They discussed the legislative priorities, clarifying that the legislative priorities are meant to be session-specific around bill concepts that the legislative affairs staff anticipate

coming. They shared the new legislative priorities, which includes the Hillsboro Hops stadium improvements, which would be improved because the stadium does not meet new facility standards which were required due for the new minor league baseball standards. They also shared the proposed legislative priorities that they hope Metro will adopt, including industrial site readiness, Hillsboro Hops, urban growth management, Columbia River levees, housing production, right to repair, and regional economic recovery and growth.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Nolan asked if there are any elements of the housing production bills that they are aware of that would incorporate the values and principles that they have instilled for their housing production goals, such as land readiness.

Jenna Jones noted that they did a lot of work in the governor's office surrounding these things, including trying to push higher affordability thresholds, and density thresholds, and while they have seen some improvement, they are still trying to get other partners to have this passion. She noted that they are trying to make sure that whatever is built is not infringing on the current pipeline of projects for these things. She noted that they are trying make sure that folks with the highest need are centered.

Councilor Nolan noted that the city of Portland has invested in roads and sewers and water supply, mentioning that there are other hurdles to developing, especially on affordable housing. They asked how those could be included as competitive needs for that funding to make things ready to build.

Jones responded that the utility service kind of infrastructure is what she is most informed on, and less so on other barriers. Jones stated that as part of infrastructure funding, it must be zoned to a density of 17 units per acre, and all units must be between 80%-120% AMI or lower, under the affordability covenant.

Councilor Lewis requested that when it comes to regional economic recovery, they do not let them off the hook in terms of arts and culture infusion, as those are necessary.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if they would ask for a motion to support the legislative agenda.

Council President Peterson responded that yes, that is the case.

Councilor Rosenthal stated that he cannot support the Hillsboro Hops funding. He remarked that the State should not give away money and it could be better used for other purposes. He also asked about if they should be supporting giving money to a private enterprise, because the control will be owned by a different group. He mentioned the EcoNorthwest study, stating that it has been highly inflated with assumptions that are not very supportive about how people spend the money. He shared that from an economic prosperity standpoint, it is not helpful. He noted that he is not against the entire slate of priorities, but he does not support the Hillsboro Hops priority.

Council President Peterson noted that they are adopting this with all the priorities together.

Councilor Hwang asked about the expected economic impact that was done and what partners support in terms of

these priorities.

Koehler noted that the main purpose of it will be a city owned ballpark and a place for community events such as concerts. Koehler noted that there are many partners at the table, including Expo Futures.

Councilor Hwang asked if it will also support community culture engagements.

Koehler responded that yes, that is the case.

Councilor Hwang responded he supports it so long as it supports community culture engagements.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

4.2 Resolution No. 24-5376 For the Purpose of Adopting the Federal Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5376](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

Council President Peterson called on Betsy Emery (she/her), Federal Affairs Advisor, Metro to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Resolution No. 24-5376 For the

Purpose of Adopting the Federal Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress PowerPoint Presentation present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

The presenter shared the federal legislative agenda, discussed the challenging dynamics on Capitol Hill. She noted that the legislative agenda identifies Metro's policy, funding, and regulatory priorities. Emery shared the incorporated Council feedback, including amplifying pedestrian safety as a legislative priority, ensuring coalitions they serve are reflected, support for wildlife friendly transportation investments, including the Willamette Falls Locks Authority (WFLA), and investigate public dollars dedicated to community engagement.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there is potential for legislation to upgrade their energy infrastructure to enhance alternative energies through a new power grid.

Betsy Emery responded that energy transition is a very important component of the conversations that are happening on Capitol hill, and the conversations are deep and expansive. She noted that they can engage in this topic through their coalitions and their partners in the region who are experts in that field. She shared that it is not a space that they can lead in, but they can join in with their coalitions in that.

Council President Peterson added that as they go into their fifty-year planning conversation and plan, they are beholders to the Oregon land use planning program and there are 16 goals, as well as the energy goal. She encouraged the Council, in terms of funding and community

engagement needs, to deep dive into and what needs to be coordinated.

Councilor Hwang asked about how, as an organization, they can build relationships with their federal delegation and how they can be thoughtful about building those relationships as new members are joining the federal government.

Emery responded that their delegation is unique because they host town halls every year and often hold a meet-and-greet with the elected officials that represent those regions. She added that now that they have full capacity dedicated to federal affairs, they will be engaging in much more comprehensive engagement, including telling the delegation what Metro's story is, which she noted is something wants to work on more.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

4.3 Resolution No. 23-5371 For the Purpose of Approving Fiscal Year 2023-24 Funding for Grants Funded with the Construction Excise Tax

Attachments: [Resolution 23-5371](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson called on Eryn Kehe (she/her), Urban Policy & Development Manager, Metro Serah

Breakstone (she/her), 2040 Planning & Development Grants Program Manager Metro to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Resolution No. 23-5371 For the Purpose of Awarding 2040 Planning Grants Presentation present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters provided the history and context for the 2040 Planning and Development grants. They shared eight of the seventeen projects that are ready to go. Presenters discussed that the total funding requested was \$4,084,733, and went over the Screening Committee evaluation, as well as the COO recommendation. The presenters noted the Council endorsement on October 17. They shared that they will ask for approval for the eight grants they shared during this presentation, and noted that they will be back in March to seek approval for the remaining nine projects. They shared that the projects presented include the milestones and deliverables. They discussed the equitable development grants, industrial land readiness grants, and community engagement grants. The presenters then described the next steps for these projects.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Hwang asked about the full list of projects, questioning why there are no projects from the City of Portland.

Serah Breakstone noted that they will be in the second batch, and that some folks were ready and had their scoping phase completed, while others did not. She stated that the eight projects they have brought to Council today are the ones that are ready to go.

Council President Peterson asked what the intent is with the planning process for the Clackamas Heights grant, noting that she had heard that they were discussing relocating it.

Breakstone responded that their plan is to develop it to create a redevelopment strategy for Clackamas Heights to make it a more utilized site. She added that there was nothing in the grant proposal that said anything about relocating Clackamas Heights.

Council President Peterson noted that Clackamas is fairly isolated from being able to access things, and asked if they will have more access to resources that will be provided from this grant.

Breakstone responded that they would get back to them.

Council President Peterson stated that she would like to know how these folks will be served.

Eryn Kehe responded that they would follow up on this.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

5. Other Business

5.1 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) System Financing and Solid Waste Fees Discussion

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson called on Marta McGuire (she/her), WPES Director, Metro, and Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer, Metro to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) System Financing and Solid Waste Fees Discussion PowerPoint present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters stated the primary mission of WPES, which is to protect people and the environment through waste reduction and managing garbage and recycling. They shared the garbage and recycling system, noting that more than 2.5 million tons of garbage are moved through the system each year. Presenters also shared how they are addressing the full life of products. The presenters discussed the decision roadmap for their financing and service fees. They discussed the participants and the regulations of the regional garbage and recycling system. Presenters shared the transfer system characteristics in the regulated market, and the market dynamics. They mentioned Metro's market participation and the transfer station operation goals. They discussed the fee dynamics and how these fees relate to their values. Presenters mentioned the tonnage dynamics, protecting public investments, and the tonnage allocation history. Finally, the presenters discussed the implications and conclusions, and asked the Council if they had any questions.

Council discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned that they authorized a transparency study, and asked where that will be most helpful.

Marta McGuire responded that they provided a written summary that provides more details on what a cost-of-service analysis would look like, and what they have heard from stakeholders.

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

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- The storm damage is being assessed, and there is a consensus that the existing system for managing is adequate. Local governments asked about Metro's new disaster debris program. They will know soon about whether this event would be declared a federal disaster, which will provide funding. They are working with the Department of Emergency Management to get information about the declaration process. They are hoping to have \$5 million in that fund, and there is currently between \$700,000 and \$800,000.

Councilor Lewis noted that she is concerned because Clackamas County and Lake Oswego is not working with the State and not accepting State funds. She requested that COO Madrigal reaches out to those areas that are not accepting State funds to see how they can help.

Councilor Simpson added that Wood Village also needs assistance.

COO Madrigal responded that the program is available to all the cities within the Metro region.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis joined the Oregon Transportation Commission yesterday on behalf of RTAC and provided information about tolling, revenue, net rolling allocation, and more. The OTC was interested in what the processing was in. She also thanked people for joining the breakfast this morning.
- Council President Peterson noted that the environmental assessment, to accelerate the projects, made a statement that there was no significant impact, which slowed the process. They asked for it to be changed from EA process to EIS processes. They worked hard to get a community conversation going.
- Councilor Rosenthal shared that the city of Sherwood is preparing a request for UGB expansion, and they invited the Council to do a tour of the area that they are proposing to expand.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren noted that there is sensitivity about how they look at areas for the site visit for the UGB expansion in Sherwood.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgia Langer, Legislative Assistant