

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Waste Fee Policy Task Force
Date: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024
Time: 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Place: Hybrid Council Chambers, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
Purpose: Fifth task force meeting, review draft recommendations and continued discussion of waste fee policy criteria priorities.
Outcomes: Provide feedback on draft recommendation framework and fee prioritization scenarios.

2 p.m.	Welcome	Mary Nolan
2:05 p.m.	Draft recommendations framework	Pam Peck
2:20 p.m.	Waste fee policy criteria priorities	Marta McGuire
3:15 p.m.	Draft fiscal policy and engagement recommendations	Marta McGuire
3:25 p.m.	Next steps	Mary Nolan
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn	All

Metro Waste Fee Policy Task Force

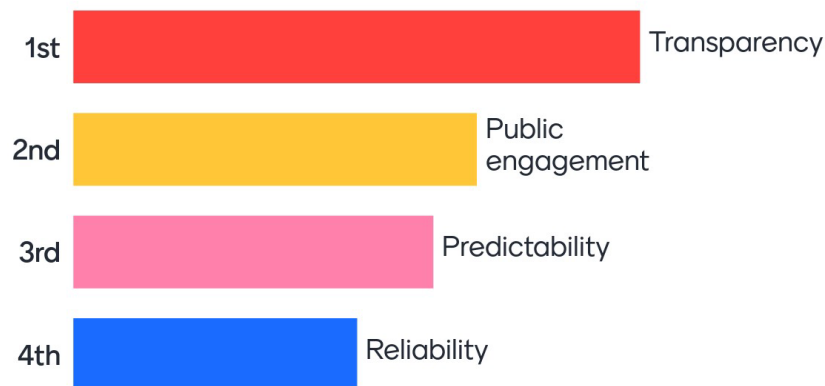
Pre-Read: Prioritization Activity Summary and Draft Policy Recommendations.

Overview

At the January 30th, Waste Fee Policy Task Force Meeting, task force members participated in a series of live survey questions to prioritize the fee-setting criteria. The results are below. In addition, draft fiscal policy, engagement and collaboration recommendations are attached and will be considered at the February 13th meeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY SURVEY RESULTS

Accountability



Is there anything missing?

- Inclusion of simplicity along with transparency
- Provide clear, simple information so the public can see and understand Metro workings and money movements and have a pathway for accountability on Metro.
- Thinking of accountability as in reporting back on the use of revenue as intended/dedicated in fee setting decision.
- If all participants pay into the reserve fund, and a policy decision causes a shortfall, all participants should be able to draw from the fund.
- Clarification of what engagement means.
- For public engagement to be valuable, it's important to understand what is at stake and sometimes it's unclear what's being decided.

Accountability discussion

Transparency

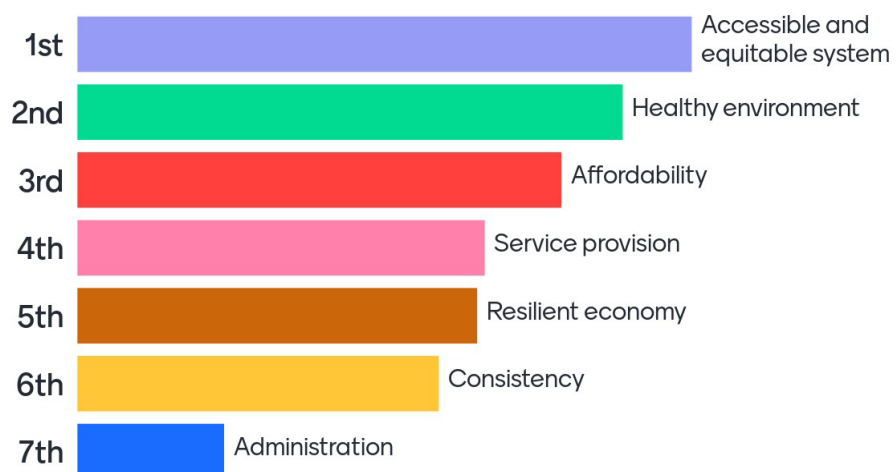
- Metro needs to address the transparency problem and public engagement is essential.
- Transparency and engagement go hand in hand, Metro should be clear about the amount of movement that is possible beyond covering fixed costs.
- Metro needs to be more transparent about the resources that go to specific programs, why do programs need to be a certain size? What are the benefits?

Predictability

- Predictability and reliability are important criteria even though they were not ranked first.
- Predictability and reliability are core functions and public engagement is how we get there.
- Predictability is especially important to local governments so they can plan for the future.
- The timing of Metro's fee setting process is challenging for some local governments due when they conduct their rate planning process.
- Metro should also be predictable about the percent of loads that go to Metro.
- Important that the fee cover all costs.
- Reliability is too focused on Metro need to look at the system as whole.

PUBLIC BENEFIT SURVEY RESULTS

Public Benefit



What's missing?

- We have to ensure we are doing the most good for the most people. We have a lot of seniors and low-income people in the region to keep in mind.
- Some categories are broad, would be good to have prioritization within the category.
- Some categories could be combined or “nest,” i.e., affordability is part of an accessible system.
- There was a suggestion to reframe what we consider trash and there should be incentives for materials to be repurposed rather than landfilled.

Public Benefit Discussion

- Consolidating items doesn't help us prioritize.

Healthy Environment

- Waste Reduction is not a goal, the environmental outcomes are the goal.
- Affordability conflicts with healthy environment, affordability will be a challenge when we go beyond landfilling.
- Important that we advance the system we want and that we make the best use of materials.
- Where does RMA and producer funding fit in? Won't this create more access to recycling?

Accessible and equitable system

- This is a key priority, programs and services should benefit everyone in the region.
- There are more than service gaps, no part of the region is well served, need to bring up the entire system.
- Would like more information about how this priority would conflict with affordability.

Service provision

- This was a priority for some task force members and they would like to see Metro build on existing private infrastructure and services.
- An example given for service provision was how long a person needs to drive to access household hazardous waste disposal services.
- Metro should provide opportunities for private companies and smaller companies to deliver services via contract or as sub-contractors.

Resilient Economy

- Current Metro pricing policy takes place in a vacuum and doesn't consider impacts on private sector.
- Private facilities should be able to access Metro reserves.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY SURVEY RESULTS

Fiscal Responsibility

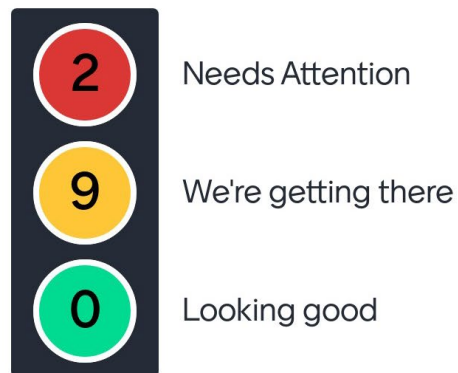


What's missing?

- Fiscal responsibility would be that transfer stations maintain a separate reserve fund.
- I like the idea of a cost of service focus over a revenue adequacy focus, similar to the fee setting process with waste collection.
- Transparency plays a role in revenue adequacy and charging for the true cost of services.

SURVEY CHECK-IN RESULTS

Check in: How are you feeling about the draft policies?



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DRAFT Fiscal Policies Recommendations

2/13/24

1. Update Metro financial policy to include the following fiscal responsibility and accountability criteria: revenue adequacy, reliability, credit rating impacts, and authority to implement
2. Update reserve policy from 45-day to 60-day operating reserve requirement.
3. Continue to maintain separate regional system fee reserve.

Waste Fee Policy Task Force

DRAFT Engagement and Collaboration Recommendations

2/13/24

Direct staff to improve the transparency and accountability of Metro's budget and fee setting process including a committee that advises on fee and budget development.

1. Expand the public engagement processes for budget and fee development including a committee that advises on fee and budget development.
 - Increase collaboration with public, private, and nonprofit partners on budget and fee development and improved public information. Consider Washington County's Garbage and Recycling Advisory Committee as a model for an advisory committee.
 - Ensure that the voices of vulnerable community members are heard and considered in the budget and fee development process.

2. Improve public information about how Metro's fees are developed and used.
 - Simplify information, all information is clear and easy to understand.
 - Share outcomes achieved through fees, include environmental outcomes and program and service performance metrics.