

Metro

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oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=TCpXQ5EskgE&list=PLeB2faWWqJxGAOgOHIX1Wdw4NNSBfp](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCpXQ5EskgE&list=PLeB2faWWqJxGAOgOHIX1Wdw4NNSBfp)

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Council meeting

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://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

2. Public Communication

Public comment may be submitted in writing. It will also be heard in person and by electronic communication (video conference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by emailing legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Written comments received by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting will be provided to the council prior to the meeting. Testimony on non-agenda items will be taken at the beginning of the meeting. Testimony on agenda items generally will take place during that item, after staff presents, but also may be taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the legislative coordinator by phone at 503-813-7591 and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify to legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Those wishing to testify in person should fill out a blue card found in the back of the Council Chamber.

Those requesting to comment virtually during the meeting can do so by joining the meeting using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or 888-475-4499 (toll free) and using the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom or emailing the legislative coordinator at legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

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

There were none.

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

- 3.1 **Resolution No. 24-5426** For the Purpose of Adding, Canceling, or Amending a Total of Seven Projects to Meet Federal Transportation Project Delivery Requirements

Attachments: [Resolution 24-5426](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the rescheduling of the I-84 preservation project, and staff explained that it is a delay in the project rather than a cancellation, and that it is likely to come back in the next year or two.

4. Resolutions

- 4.1 **Resolution No. 24-5424** For the Purpose of Adding Two New Projects and Canceling One Existing Project from the 2024-27 MTIP, and Amending the Previously Obligated Rose Quarter Improvement Project, to Meet Federal Transportation Project Delivery Requirements

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5424](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)

Council President Peterson called Ted Leybold,
Transportation Planning and Policy Director, Metro, Megan

Channell, ODOT Rose Quarter Project Director, ODOT, JT Flowers, Director of Community Affairs, Albina Vision Trust, Mike Serritella, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Portland, and Ericka Warren, Facilitator, Historic Albina Advisory Board to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Resolution No. 24-5424 For the Purpose of Adding Two New Projects and Canceling One Existing Project from the 2024-27 MTIP, and Amending the Previously Obligated Rose Quarter Improvement Project, to Meet Federal Transportation Project Delivery Requirements PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the addition of two new projects and amendments to the previously obligated Rose Quarter project delivery requirements. They emphasized the significance of these changes, including five project amendments related to the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project. They discussed the implications of these projects, which have been shaped by significant federal funding awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The presentations highlighted the historic and substantial federal investment in the Albina community, particularly through the \$450 million grant for the I-5 Rose Quarter project and the \$38.4 million for the City of Portland's corridor project. The focus was on the importance of these transportation investments in supporting community redevelopment in Albina, with a strong emphasis on restorative efforts and the broader vision for the district's future.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Gonzalez expressed appreciation for this project and pride to get to be a part of moving it forward.

Councilor Simpson echoed Councilor Gonzalez's sentiments and expressed hope that the rest of the country is inspired by restorative justice projects like this.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the process they had in mind for creating community once this project is built, and presenters explained that they are not just building housing but also schools, parks, grocery stores, and businesses in order to not just house but to meet all the needs of residents. They also noted that they are starting a partnership with the Blazers to engage this community with the neighboring entertainment district, as well as looking into methods to funnel profits back into the community.

Councilor Lewis expressed gratitude for all the hard work of all the leaders involved in this project.

Councilor Hwang asked how progress is going coordinating between all these projects, and presenters reassured him that each project is moving along well and that they will continue to make sure these projects do not happen in isolation from each other.

Councilor Nolan lauded presenters for the success of this project and emphasized the importance of how it is implemented. They requested that at least 80% of the restoration of this neighborhood is done by BIPOC-owned businesses and partners, that the volume of traffic on I-5 and Broadway is reduced, and that the community that moves in there is not overwhelmed by white people, but actually benefits the people who were displaced by the original I-5 project. Presenters agreed and noted the importance of leadership like theirs to ensure those priorities are maintained.

Council President Peterson expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the work everyone did on this project.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how the renovation of the Memorial Coliseum fits into this vision, and presenters noted that it is an anchor location in this district, but that the Blazers and Rip City are the ones working on that project.

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

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

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

4.1.1 Public Comment Opportunity for Resolution No. 24-5424

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on Resolution No. 24-5424, For the Purpose of Adding Two New Projects and Canceling One Existing Project from the 2024-27 MTIP, and Amending the Previously Obligated Rose Quarter Improvement Project, to Meet Federal Transportation Project Delivery Requirements.

Chris Smith, Portland: Smith, representing No More Freeways, expressed support for this project and the Resolution today. He also pointed out that the freeway widening portion of the project is not necessary to the freeway capping portion of the project, and urged Council to consider that during the construction phase of the project.

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

5. Other Business

5.1 Update on Employee Engagement at Metro

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

Council President Peterson introduced Kayla Martin (she/her), Project Manager, Metro, and Holly Calhoun (she/her), DCOO, Metro, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Update on Employee Engagement at Metro PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the recent updates on Metro's employee engagement initiatives, focusing on the 2023 Employee Engagement Survey. They reviewed the survey structure, which includes four sections: Gallup Q12, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), reporting confidence, and open-ended responses. The survey, conducted every other year, showed a 68% participation rate and an overall engagement score of 3.92, an increase from 2021. Presenters emphasized the importance of continuous improvement, particularly in DEI efforts and employee growth.

In discussing the next steps, presenters highlighted two main pathways for advancing the engagement initiatives: organizational-level approaches tied to the survey's four themes and department-level actions. The project team has defined key milestones, including tracking progress, enhancing communication, and celebrating achievements. Departments have submitted goals, and the focus now is on ensuring accountability and successful implementation of strategies across the organization.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis inquired about building connection with Metro employees that do not work at MRC, and presenters agreed and offered to brainstorm that further with her.

Councilor Gonzalez noted how remarkable it is that engagement and satisfaction levels grew throughout a period that included the pandemic, and appreciated the work that was done to get there.

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

5.2 Regional Housing Funding: Key Performance Indicators and Income Tax Scenario Information

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

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her/ella), COO, Metro, Patricia Rojas (she/her), Regional Housing Director, Metro, and Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO, Metro, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Regional Housing Funding: Key Performance Indicators and Income Tax Scenario Information PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the ongoing discussion regarding regional housing funding, emphasizing that the conversation aims to establish a region-wide supportive housing service system with shared goals, data sharing, and accountability mechanisms. Staff provided a refresher on the updated oversight structure and highlighted the importance of metrics and programs in guiding decision-making. They presented the current state of housing outcomes and the need for a regional plan that aligns with voter expectations,

addressing challenges and driving success through stronger oversight and accountability structures.

The COO's recommendation builds on existing goals and metrics from the affordable housing bond and supportive housing services. They emphasized the importance of community input in establishing these goals, which now guide their work. Key metrics track progress in affordable housing creation, housing stabilization, and reducing racial disparities. However, challenges remain, such as fragmented data collection and the need for improved regional coordination to achieve broader goals.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan asked for more details on the HUD KPI's, and presenters elaborated on how that program functions.

Councilor Lewis emphasized the importance of simplified, easy to understand communication for this project, and also suggested bringing in DEI. In addition, she appreciated the use of LA as a parallel case study and the way they have been addressing homelessness as a unified issue for the entire city, rather than fractured between municipalities.

Councilor Gonzalez suggested collecting more data points on the core mission principles of making homelessness rare and short-lived, rather than just numbers of beds available or people helped. In addition, he requested that qualitative data also be brought to Council and underlined focusing on outcomes instead of outputs.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed the need to continue to be adaptive and applauded our efforts so far.

Council President Peterson noted that LA has done a good

job keeping track of inflow and outflow of homelessness, and that the Portland Metro region has lost sight of those metrics. She also highlighted the importance of data collection in developing trust between us, our partners, and the community, and requested a collection of the top KPIs that other similar regions on the West Coast are using to address this issue.

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her/ella), COO, Metro, Patricia Rojas (she/her), Regional Housing Director, Metro, and Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO, Metro, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Regional Housing Funding: Income Tax Scenario Information PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined a recommendation to index income thresholds for the supportive housing services tax and consider a personal income tax rate reduction paired with a sunset extension. They emphasized that indexing would maintain the tax as a high earner tax amid inflation, ensuring that more individuals do not fall into the tax's scope due to eroded buying power. While there was some support for a tax rate reduction, it came with caution, as the impact on revenue and programs was uncertain. The analysis was based on 2021 tax data, with future decisions encouraged to focus on sound tax policy over specific revenue targets.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan asked why the single and joint income levels are not just an even twice as much, and presenters explained it was an effort to reach revenue goals.

Councilor Gonzalez agreed to the value of looking at and discussing that policy, as well as choosing inflation

indicators, and fees and penalties. Presenters agreed that these are good questions for Council to address through policy.

Councilor Nolan urged effective communications that are anticipatory, rather than finding out after-the-fact that members of the public will have to pay taxes they did not previously know about. Presenters confirmed that they are working with the city to improve these communications, and making sure that employers are withholding those taxes to begin with so employees are stuck with a surprise tax bill.

Councilor Rosenthal asserted that making slight changes to the numbers on these taxes is not a policy issue, but that it was supposed to be a tool to address other policy issues that the Council have agreed need attention. He expressed concern that lowering these numbers will not provide very much value to taxpayers and could hurt policy efforts in other areas.

Councilor Lewis noted the importance of this reform for families at the cusp of qualifying for this tax that are feeling the squeeze and hoped to have further conversations on these policy choices.

Council President Peterson asked about best practices for people who may be paying the tax for the first time, and presenters offered some suggestions, like changing the system of penalties.

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

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- Metro has updated the COO Recommendations document with some technical appendixes, and described where to find those.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Council President Peterson announced that this was the last Council meeting for Connor Ayers, the Council's Legislative Coordinator and Clerk, and appreciated all his efforts as he moves on. Councilor Rosenthal shouted out Connor's work on all the other committees and groups he works on as well.
- Council President Peterson also reported a milestone on the I-5 bridge project for a supplemental draft.
- Councilor Lewis reported on a call with DoT where they were able to share on Metro's 82nd avenue project.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant