

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, July 25, 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/live/ZWvS5GoNZqw?](https://www.youtube.com/live/ZWvS5GoNZqw?si=IX5yTy-XZueIT-MY)

[si=IX5yTy-XZueIT-MY](https://www.youtube.com/live/ZWvS5GoNZqw?si=IX5yTy-XZueIT-MY)  
**Council work session**

**10:32 Work Session Topics:**

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

10:32 Regional Housing Funding Discussion

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

Council President Peterson introduced the topic of the COO's recommendation on Regional Housing Funding, following up on a discussion that began at the July 9, 2024 Work Session.

Council President Peterson summarized the staff recommendations which cited the existing program's lack of governance and expertise as key issues. To plan for short- and medium-term improvement, Council President Peterson requested to clarify the Council's stance. The conversation was then opened to the Councilors.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Nolan advised that the Councilors as elected officials should set the expectations for funding, while the County partners should be responsible for budgeting and implementing.

Councilor Lewis concurred with Councilor Nolan's comments about the importance of a mutually beneficial partnership between the Metro Council and the three counties for handling regional issues.

Councilor Gonzalez suggested that the Council be more proactive at goal setting going forward.

Councilor Hwang expressed his general agreement and

raised concerns over the current contractor relationship and moving toward a more accountable partnership.

Councilor Simpson acknowledged that the Councilors need to remain accountable to their constituents while helping to facilitate the housing conversation.

Councilor Rosenthal remarked that as a representative for a more rural district, the dynamics between Metro and local governing bodies are less apparent, highlighting the potential difficulty of a regionally consolidated effort.

COO Marissa Madrigal recommended that the elected officials be responsible for making big decisions about funding.

Council President Peterson then shifted to the topic of indexing the SHS personal income tax.

*Council Discussion*

Josh Harwood, Revenue and Analytics Division Director at Metro, spoke to the FICA tax and increasing the threshold.

Councilor Nolan conveyed their support for tax threshold indexing instead of lowering the rate ahead of the vote.

Councilor Gonzalez proposed tying the threshold to a federal standard, and wondered how many people are close to the current threshold.

Councilor Hwang requested further consideration of the difference between high income earners and thriving wages. Director Harwood clarified that Portland is in line with state and federal income tax, and expressed that while taxes will fluctuate, scenarios have taken factors like inflation into

account.

There being no further comments, the discussion concluded, and the Council took a brief recess.

12:00 WPES: System Facilities Plan, Proposed Facility and Program Investments

Attachments: [20240730 SFP Staff Report for Council](#)  
[20240730 AttchA\\_SFP Values and outcomes summary flyer](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Marta McGuire (she/her) to present on the Regional Waste Plan. Staff pulled up the Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan PowerPoint to present to Council.

*Presentation Summary*

McGuire introduced Estee Segal (she/her) and Luis Sandoval (he/him) as the leaders of this project. McGuire explained that their team is seeking guidance from the Council on a proposed set of investments for the Systems Facilities Plan. Segal explained that out of scenarios presented at a symposium the previous fall, most people favored the Distributed scenario, in which Metro builds a network of facilities across the three counties. She then showed possible locations for these community waste depots. Sandoval shared proposed investments for maintaining Metro Central's organics hub, reducing Metro's role in handling commercial waste at its transfer stations, and constructing community drop-off depots and reuse warehouses. McGuire concluded the presentation with questions for Council discussion.

*Council Discussion*

Council President Peterson thanked the presenters and requested that the Council approach the discussion by comparing the new proposals to the present arrangement.

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Council President Peterson turned the conversation over to the Council and excused herself at 12:22 p.m. Councilor Simpson left the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Councilor Lewis expressed support for the six depots, investment for organics and reuse, and investment in commercial waste through a phased approach, showing approval for the investment package overall.

Councilor Rosenthal concurred with Councilor Lewis but mentioned that there were a limited number of qualified sites in his district, which could present a challenge.

Councilor Hwang inquired about creating a model for additional depots as well as the partnership for providing waste services with the private sector.

Staff responded that this is a broad vision plan and there will be more opportunities to plan and approve specific projects in the future.

Councilor Hwang recommended further value-setting to better assess the benefits and drawbacks of the various outcomes.

Councilor Nolan urged staff to be ambitious and advised the Council to act boldly and quickly to implement plans to reduce waste. Councilor Rosenthal concurred and encouraged developing an inventory of sites.

Councilors Lewis and Councilor Nolan further conveyed their enthusiasm for the proposed depots. McGuire summarized the Council's view for expedited action and moving forward with stakeholders.

**12:50 Chief Operating Office Communication**

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

Parks and Nature: Metro's Nature and Neighborhoods Community Choice Grants Program was awarded the Core Values Award for Respect, Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

#### 12:55 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Nolan referenced public testimonies and deliberation at the MPAC meeting about the Urban Growth Report and the request for expansion in Sherwood
- Councilor Lewis highlighted work done by the Zoo team to host and accommodate the AZA Board, the accrediting body for Metro. Additionally, Councilor Lewis attended the Oregon City Business Alliance and had positive conversations with the public about the COO's recommendations for the SHS tax and the UGB

#### 1:00 Adjourn

Seeing no further discussion, Council Chair Hwang adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Emma McIntosh*

Emma McIntosh, Legislative Assistant