

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 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)

Council work session

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)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:31 a.m. Councilor Nolan was present from 10:52 a.m.

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

Excused: 1 - Ashton Simpson

10:30 Work Session Topics:

10:30 Zoo Bond Implementation Plan

Attachments: [Resolution no. 24-5431](#)

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Heidi Rahn, Oregon Zoo Director, and Kristin Solomon, Campus Plan Project Manager, to present on the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan. Staff pulled up the “Zoo Bond Implementation Plan” slides to present to Council.

Presentation

Rahn described the strategic drivers for the Zoo Campus Plan and explained how input from the Metro Council, ballot measure commitments, and implementation priorities have informed the current Plan and the sequencing timeline. Solomon outlined several proposed development projects, including new construction and upgrades to the existing infrastructure of various guest spaces and exhibits at the Zoo. Rahn clarified the approval process, stating that the Campus Plan was still in its initial phase and would be refined, and presented the Council with a policy question for discussion.

Council Discussion

Council President Peterson mentioned the auditor's feedback for adequate program and project contingency, which was acknowledged by the staff.

Councilor Lewis commended staff for being responsive to AZA standards and the broader conservation community and asked about the prioritization of critical species. Presenters stated that they would be flexible and plan for contingencies.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired about the effects of the economy on project costs. Staff clarified that all budgeting decisions would be thoroughly considered and offered a few responses to potential funding needs.

Councilor Hwang requested staff comment on the desired size, composition, and skill sets of recruitments for the Citizen Oversight Committee. Staff explained that they would seek experts from a variety of professional backgrounds, including legal, construction, animal well-being, climate resilience, and accessibility to gain the confidence of the community.

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson thanked the Zoo staff and moved to the next agenda item.

11:00 2025 State Legislative Transportation Priorities

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

Council President Peterson introduced Annelise Koehler along with State Senator Chris Gorsek (District 25) and Representative Susan McLain (District 29), co-chairs of the I-5 Bridge Project, to present on the topic of the 2025 State Legislative Transportation Priorities.

Presentation

Representative McLain introduced the State of Oregon's current priority of evaluating and improving the funding tools for transit systems based on regional needs. She reported that the available funds from the gas tax are decreasing due to an increase in alternative transit and electric vehicles. Rep. McLain shared that her tour across the state with Senator Gorsek has revealed that the cities and counties of Oregon have all expressed a need to specifically address maintenance and operations, micro-mobility and transit, and commitments to established anchor projects.

Senator Gorsek explained that the equipment used to maintain infrastructure is aging and lacking overall in many ODOT facilities, particularly in places that receive high snowfall. He remarked that plans for road system improvements and freeway expansion proposals face a certain amount of resistance in the Portland metropolitan area, whereas other regions are more receptive. He emphasized the consensus that the transportation system needs assistance.

Council Discussion

Staff pulled up the Draft JPACT priorities from the "2025 State Legislative Transportation Priorities" slides.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed his appreciation for Rep. McLain and Sen. Gorsek's leadership and described the draft set of priorities from JPACT, which included sustainable funding as well as transportation safety and resilient transit.

Councilor Lewis remarked on the lack of multimodal transportation systems in many communities and expressed support for accessible and resilient infrastructure.

Rep. McLain encouraged local and regional elected officials to help educate the general public on transportation and

system costs, as well as to initiate dialogue to better understand the needs of their communities.

Councilor Rosenthal highlighted the State's goals as a strong commitment from the legislature, operation and maintenance solutions, and the formation of transportation task forces. Rep. McLain and Sen. Gorsek confirmed that these were major priorities.

Councilor Nolan inquired about the consensus of Oregonians around the desired mechanism for raising funds for transportation projects. Rep. McLain reported varying opinions on how to start, indicating support in the Portland area for a user fee. Rep. McLain conveyed that this would be viable as a mid-term tool, while indexing the gas tax and delivery/convenience fees would be likely in the short-term. Sen. Gorsek indicated the popularity of tolling as an option outside of the Portland area, which is unfavorable among constituents in the metropolitan region.

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

11:45 Renewing our Regional Vision: Scoping Feedback

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Malu Wilkinson, Planning Deputy Director, along with Jess Zdeb, Project Manager, and Molly Cooney-Mesker, Interim Communications and Engagement Manager, to present on the topic of Renewing Metro's Regional Vision and the 2040 Growth Concept.

Staff pulled up the "Renewing our Future Vision: Scoping Conversation" slides to present to Council.

Presentation

Zdeb described the Metro Charter's mandate for a Future Vision Commission. She provided a draft proposal for the timeline and composition of the Commission, with monthly meetings expected to begin in January 2025. Zdeb outlined the potential roles of participants, including elected officials and staff, as well as opportunities for tribal representation.

Cooney-Mesker shared the proposed application process and emphasized the importance of seeking diverse representation in the group in terms of identity, background, and experience, as well as youth engagement.

Wilkinson then asked the Council for feedback regarding the approach and recruitment recommendations along with a discussion of the desired outcomes of the process.

Council Discussion

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney, explained that the Future Vision is not intended a regulatory document in the Metro Charter.

Council President Peterson raised concerns about the Commission's purpose being underdeveloped and requested that staff set clear expectations for the Commission membership.

Councilor Nolan questioned how the proposal would balance future goals and expressed that plans should be specific enough to be actionable but not so detailed as to become obsolete. Councilor Nolan added that staff should further define these goals before addressing the composition of the Commission.

Councilor Gonzalez mentioned the geographic equity component and expressed support for prioritizing geographic relevance among applicants. He acknowledged

that the Future Vision commission cannot be legally compensated.

Councilor Rosenthal asked staff to clarify the range of lived experience, the involvement of tribes and interest groups, and communication with stakeholders. Staff answered that lived experience would be valued equally and ideally be diverse, all seven federally recognized tribes within the region would be consulted for participation, and a public engagement plan would be drafted to outline the involvement of other governing bodies.

Councilor Lewis advised that participant attributes such as “productive contrarian” would be beneficial within the Commission for a strong result. Councilor Lewis expressed concern over designating a Councilor seat for the Commission and advised that academic expertise be balanced with lived experience in the recruitment process.

Councilor Hwang recommended that immigration experience be considered and conveyed that the size and constituency recommendations seemed appropriate.

Councilor Nolan suggested being conscious of both lived and living (housing) experience when assembling the Commission.

Staff requested further discussion on the matter of appointing a Councilor to the Future Vision Commission. Council President Peterson asked that each Councilor state and explain their position.

Councilor Gonzalez approved, reasoning that it would give the Council a sense of ownership and expressing that Council participation has led to the best outcomes in the past.

Councilor Rosenthal disapproved, reasoning that the Councilor’s perspectives are too varied and would not be productive for the Commission.

Councilor Lewis disapproved, reasoning that the Council's decisions should not be influenced by the appointed Councilor.

Councilor Hwang approved, reasoning that it provides representation for the Councilors in these conversations.

Councilor Nolan approved, concurring with Councilor Gonzalez and Councilor Hwang’s reasons and noting the benefits of open communication between the Commission and the Metro Council.

Council President Peterson remarked that the conversation brings up the finer points of the Council’s involvement in the Future Vision and noted that the majority of the Council is supportive of a Councilor seat on the Commission.

There being no further discussion, the Council moved on to COO communication.

12:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- Acknowledged and thanked the Campus Operations team, who performed a deep clean of the Metro Regional Center offices and chambers while the Council was in recess
- Acknowledged and thanked the managers and supervisors who worked during the recent heat wave

12:35 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and

events:

- Councilor Gonzalez thanked Councilor Rosenthal, volunteers, and Metro staff for helping with the Tualatin Valley Highway cleanup
- Councilor Lewis reported Stafford Hamlet had a successful Family Fest
- Councilor Rosenthal reported that the Oregon Zoo held a pleasant volunteer appreciation event

12:40 Adjourn to Executive Session

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session to an Executive Session at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma McIntosh

Emma McIntosh, Legislative Assistant

The Executive Session will be held pursuant under ORS 192.660(2)(e); To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions, and ORS 192.660(2)(h); To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

This Executive Session is closed to the public.