

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 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/LwMlogEFIp8?feature=shared>

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)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

Work Session Topics:

10:30 Community Connector Transit Study: Overview and Introduction

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)
[Attachment 4](#)
[Attachment 5](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Catherine Ciarlo (she/her), PDR Director, Metro and Ally Holmqvist (she/her), Senior Transportation Planner, Metro to present on the Community Connector Transit Study.

Staff pulled up the Community Connector Transit Study: Overview and Introduction presentation to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

The presenters began by outlining the forms of public transit

being discussed - specifically, shuttles and vans that are accessible and affordable, which connect people to larger-capacity transit options. The presenters described this study as a tool to narrow down target areas and populations who have the greatest need for Community Connector Transit. They explained that the results of the study will be used to improve the development of future transit options and mobility hubs to better serve the community.

Council Discussion:

Council President Peterson asked whether they will be investigating who needs transportation first and then determining which tools are necessary to meet those needs, as opposed to developing the tools and then assigning them to specific communities.

The presenters replied that the study will be using both mechanisms. They will be surveying the community to determine what tools are needed to address existing issues and lack of transportation. They will also be independently investigating where an additive solution-such as a shuttle-could increase a community's access to the transit system without requiring an extended bus route.

Councilor Rosenthal remarked that he has been a long-time rider of public transit and wondered whether they will be considering various administrative models. He stated that TriMet cannot be expected to solve all the mobility problems of the area with its current limitations.

The presenters responded that they will be considering the governance of the program and working to leverage and coordinate multiple modes of transportation to collaboratively address transportation issues.

Councilor Lewis shared her enthusiasm for the project and stated her perspective that there is tension regarding the availability of STIF in the upcoming legislative session. She questioned what the timeline for engaging the transit providers is and what is the timeline for determining governance.

The presenters answered that some providers have already begun engaging, including TriMet, SMART, and Ride Connect. More will be joining via workshops for other partners and county providers. To the second part of the question, staff is currently looking at governance models though recommendations will not be available until late 2025.

Councilor Lewis expressed her wish that senior centers and community centers running shuttles be engaged in the conversation as well.

Councilor Gonzalez commented on the timeliness of the conversation given the focus of transportation funding in the upcoming legislative session. He noted that there is an opportunity to level the playing field of what type of transit is available, especially with regard to rural areas.

Council President Peterson asked whether this project could be used to apply targeted universalism and what it truly means to provide access. Additionally, she wondered how to incorporate financing into the governance conversation.

The presenters replied that the matter of STIF and the upcoming legislative session have caused enough tension in the region that the topic of funding will organically present itself.

Councilor Rosenthal pleaded with staff to consider where people in each target area are employed and work backward to create sustainable commuting solutions.

Councilor Gonzalez noted there is an opportunity to look at major capital projects that these transportation projects can accentuate. He explained that capitalizing on industrialization means investing in mobility in those parts of the region experiencing the most development.

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

11:15 Parks and Nature Bond Large-Scale Community Visions - 2024 Cycle

Attachments: [Staff report.pdf](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Jon Blasher (he/him) Parks and Nature Director, Metro and Linda Bartolini (she/her), Large-scale Community Visions Program Coordinator, Metro Venegas to present on the Parks and

Nature Bond Large-Scale Community Visions.

Staff pulled up the Parks and Nature Bond Large-Scale Community Visions - 2024 Cycle presentation to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

The presenters provided an overview of the criteria required for large scale community vision projects, including a high level of community engagement, a focus on racial equity, and connections to affordable housing or public transit. The presenters described three projects that currently meet the baseline criteria for eligible projects. This includes a new wildlife hospital for the Bird Alliance of Oregon along 82nd Avenue, habitat restoration along Kellogg Creek, and the development of a Foodways Corridor in East Portland. The presenters concluded by asking the Council whether the current eligibility and evaluation criteria align with Council's expectations.

Councilor Discussion:

Councilor Gonzalez began with a shout-out to Councilor Lewis for her involvement in the Kellogg Creek development. He followed up with a question about how the Foodways Corridor's acquisition of working lands interacts with the precedent set by Metro's prior relationship to working lands.

The presenters acknowledged that the Parks and Nature department does focus heavily on habitat restoration and preservation, rarely holding on to working lands. However, they noted that this project is more focused on funding and acting as a vehicle for outside projects, which gives leeway to the funding recipients.

Councilor Lewis praised the quality of the presentation and noted two projects that she feels have significant merit. She described how impressed she is with the Kellogg Creek project and its interaction with transportation, creating connections for environmental justice, and community engagement. Councilor Lewis then asked how wedded Council is to the current division of current funds of \$10 million each year over a period of three years.

The presenters clarified that any flexibility to award more than \$10 million in a single cycle would be a legal question.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren stated that she would look further into the matter.

Councilor Simpson thanked staff for their work on both the Kellogg Creek and Bird Alliance acquisition projects. He asked what habitat restoration possibilities may be available in the Foodways Corridor project.

The presenters responded that the habitat benefits would be part of the greater agricultural focus, such as developing

healthier soil and air. They stated the Foodways Corridor would also create business opportunities for BIPOC farmers and incorporate habitat and green space preservation.

Councilor Simpson asked how accessible the green spaces being preserved would be for the community.

The presenters replied that it will depend on the parcel in question, but the parcel discussed today would be accessible. They noted that there will not be concurrent transportation improvements as part of the project.

Councilor Rosenthal commended the Kellogg Creek project and followed up with two questions. He wondered about the size and ownership of the Bird Alliance land parcel and whether there will be trails and other points of community access to the parcel.

The presenters replied that the parcel is 12.5 acres with the acquisition currently in process. They added that the LSCV award would require that part of property be made public, so the plan includes a public park and community-use trails.

Councilor Hwang thanked the presenters for bringing the three proposals to the Council's attention. He asked what changes in criteria were applied after the pilot round of project collection. He also inquired about what types of delays these projects may encounter due to the public ownership component.

The presenters answered the first question by stating that the most significant change to the criteria was the requirement for public ownership. Other changes made after the pilot round include the acceptance of applications on a rolling basis and a change to the match percentages between Metro and community partners. To the question of delays related to public ownership, the presenters responded that projects must provide confirmation of existing public owners and partnerships early in the proposal process.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren that minute details of each proposal, including the negotiation of public easements, require legal analysis to ensure the projects comply with the program criteria.

Councilor Hwang requested confirmation that each of the three proposals currently meet the public ownership criteria from a legal standpoint.

The presenters affirmed that, at present, all three projects meet the criteria.

Councilor Hwang asked whether there is a minimum threshold for fund allocation for each proposal and whether it would be possible to award partial funds to a project.

The presenters answered that disbursement occurs at the Council's discretion, so Councilors do retain the ability to

flexibly award funds to each project as they see fit.

Councilor Nolan expressed appreciation for the public partners who are collaborating on the proposals. They noted that two of the projects were high quality according while one needed further information or development to find a home with Metro. They support staff recommendations for the Kellogg's and Bird Alliance project.

Council President Peterson clarified that the presenters were looking for feedback on way they currently apply the program's criteria and whether it is still in line with Metro's values and priorities.

Councilor Nolan amended their statement to affirm the current priorities and policy. They related how important their prior visit to Kellogg Creek was to understanding that particular proposal and suggested that arrangements be made for Council to visit the Bird Alliance and Foodways Corridor sites in person.

Councilor Simpson noted that while the Foodways Corridor proposal may not meet the criteria for a Large Scale Community Vision project, he would still like to see that project developed, perhaps being taken on directly by the Parks and Nature department.

Council President Peterson asked COO Marissa Madrigal whether a work session could be convened in the new year, including local organizations, to discuss Metro's

responsibilities for the development of community agriculture.

COO Marissa Madrigal agreed with the Council President and stated that it would be a valuable topic for Council to explore.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired about other projects that have been recently submitted and raised again the idea of finding more funding or dispensing partial funding to multiple projects.

The presenters replied that they have received several other proposals recently which are still under review.

COO Marissa Madrigal reminded Council there will be future discussions about the bond itself when issues like fund disbursement would be more appropriate.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren followed up, clarifying that the purpose of today's discussion is not to approve projects but to learn about some promising proposals.

Councilor Gonzalez commended Multnomah and Clackamas counties for their high-quality priorities.

Council President Peterson emphasized the importance of obtaining information about partial funding for projects in

advance of the December 5th Council Meeting where proposals will be greenlit.

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

12:00 Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

- Reminder that there is an all-staff town hall at 1:00pm at the OCC.
- Update that there was a massive network outage and expressed appreciation for the IT team and power crews who worked to reestablish the network.

12:05 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Council President Peterson reminded Council that the October 19th council meeting will be split into a morning and afternoon session, and she requested that councilors provide amendments in advance of the meeting.
- Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren added that Councilors had previously agreed to provide amendments in advance as part of the adopted rules and procedures. She also offered assistance to Councilors in drafting their amendments.

12:15 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Cooley

Nicholas Cooley, Legislative Assistant