

# **Metro**

*600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)*



## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 26, 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

### **10:30 Work Session Topics:**

10:30 Reuse Impact Fund

**Presenter(s):** Marta McGuire, PhD., (she/her), Director, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services  
Abby Herrera, (she/her), Senior Solid Waste Planner, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services

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

Council President Peterson introduced Marta McGuire, PhD., (she/her), Director, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services and Abby Herrera, (she/her), Senior Solid Waste Planner, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services to present on the Reuse Impact Fund.

Staff pulled up the Reuse Impact Fund presentation to present to Council.

#### *Presentation Summary:*

The presenters discussed the WPES decision roadmap, describing the stages of decisions and program development. They covered the current program proposal for the Reuse Impact fund as a three-year long pilot

program to support reuse and repair. The presenters concluded by describing the types of data the pilot program will collect and the proposed program costs.

*Council Discussion:*

Councilor Nolan asked why the recovery and transfer of waste costs more than the current setup for waste disposal.

The presenters replied that transferring or removing material from the waste stream will always have an increased cost because it requires higher levels of management and analytics.

Councilor Nolan wondered when the cost of reclaiming waste will offset or recover the cost of moving material to the landfill. They suggested that public education may be important to the success of the program.

The presenters replied that the pilot program will provide staff with the opportunities to explore the costs and savings of the overall management of the system and the materials.

Councilor Rosenthal requested clarification on the 62% figure and asked how the funds granted to WPES earlier were used. Finally, he questioned whether the benefits will be seen outside of the waste system, in a beneficial way but where there is no recoverable cost.

The presenters answered that the appliance recovery percentage is 0.62%. They stated that the funding was distributed to provide operation funds for regional waste management. And to Councilor Rosenthal's third point, they shared that he is correct that some societal benefits will be immeasurable and unquantifiable, though there may be some methods to collect qualitative data.

Councilor Lewis thanked the presenters for their work and stated that the pilot program is well-developed. She also expressed her desire for a scoring system that can be applied to organizations and staffing.

Councilor Hwang asked if the presenters could speak about the impact of the financial awards to the grantees.

The presenters responded that their intent was to move the funds as quickly as possible to the waste management organizations to support ongoing operations. They noted that there is an opportunity to collect feedback from those organizations.

Councilor Hwang commented on the nature of the grants as general operational funding. He highlighted the importance of supporting the waste management partners.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed concerns about the high administrative costs associated with the program.

The presenters replied there was already a slight reduction to staff from 2.0 FTE to 1.5 FTE.

Councilor Gonzalez reiterated the importance of considering contracts carefully to ensure financial efficacy.

The presenters answered how important the presence of a program manager and analytics consultant are to lift the program off the ground.

Councilor Simpson noted that the community has been supportive of the pilot program's purpose. He referenced Councilor Nolan's earlier point that the pilot should be

flexible, especially for nonprofits running on a limited budget.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed his support for the program and raised the issue of creating an efficient selection process.

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

11:15 Regional Supportive Housing Services And Affordable Housing Funding:  
Proposed Future Allocation Approach

Presenter(s): Metro Council President Lynn Peterson (she/her)

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

Council President Peterson introduced and presented on the Regional Supportive Housing Services and Affordable Housing Funding: Proposed Future Allocation Approach.

Staff pulled up the Regional Supportive Housing Services and Affordable Housing Funding: Proposed Future Allocation Approach presentation to present to Council.

*Presentation Summary:*

Council President Peterson provided the Council with an overview of the funding “bucket” system that their prior input helped develop, where funds will flow in a set order to different areas of Supportive Housing Services. The Council was then presented to by Brian Kennedy, CFO, who provided possible scenarios based on different funding baselines and transition periods.

*Council Discussion:*

Councilor Lewis emphasized the importance of good

communication regarding tax collection.

Councilor Hwang clarified that the Regional Administration bucket should cover the costs of data administration as well. He also proposed for consideration whether this bucket should include partner and capacity building.

Councilor Simpson wondered whether Metro would continue its 5% administrative cap.

Brian Kennedy replied that the scenarios referenced capped Metro's administrative costs and grew them with inflation.

Councilor Gonzalez acknowledged the improvements made on the business income tax in cooperation with local business leaders. He suggested that Council discuss the implications of a 5% and its impact on effectiveness.

Council President Peterson questioned whether future affordable housing staff administration would also belong to the Regional Administration bucket. She suggested several Councilors work together to explore this.

Brian Kennedy noted there are challenges with the administrative cap of the existing bond.

Councilor Rosenthal states that the current administrative funding totals \$17 million and asked how those funds might be better distributed.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren responded that the current distribution is governed by the IGAs with the counties and Metro code.

Council President Peterson summarized that Councilors

agree with this approach for administrative funding.

Councilor Gonzalez discussed the positive feedback that partners have provided regarding Metro's involvement with and funding for county services and rent assistance. He emphasized the importance of supporting population A.

Councilor Nolan suggested that the services funding bucket could represent Metro's motivation for the program. They added that the new measure should clarify the goal of ending or preventing homelessness versus ongoing maintenance.

Council President Peterson noted that the SHS plan would be part of the Regional Action Plan and that it would be important to collect more information about why and how people become homeless.

Councilor Lewis proposed that there should be a guaranteed minimum funding for services to support counties and that the majority of this funding should go to population A.

Council President Peterson agreed with Councilor Lewis about the importance of stable funding and noted that counties could be eligible for other funding buckets as well.

Councilor Rosenthal clarified the difference between acute and ongoing homelessness and stated his desire for clear language regarding this.

Councilor Hwang suggested that the plan clearly outline the regional approach to support county services.

Councilor Simpson expressed his desire to ensure that this bucket continues to support community partners as well.

Councilor Gonzalez commented on the importance of speaking with the counties about how to create a workable transition window.

Council President Peterson noted that transition time would be discussed later in the day. She referred to the Clackamas County budgeting model as a possible example of budgeting structure for the program.

Councilor Hwang, speaking about the third bucket for affordable housing, explained that many developers are unable to complete housing projects due to a lack of affordable housing funding.

Councilor Lewis highlighted the need to invest in permanent supportive housing (PSH).

Councilor Gonzalez recognized that investments into affordable housing decreases the inflow of people into homelessness.

Councilor Rosenthal brought attention to the need for increased efficiency and improved partnerships in preserving, acquiring, and developing affordable housing.

Council President Peterson agreed with Councilor Rosenthal and noted again the importance of developing a regional plan that prioritizes housing needs.

Councilor Nolan described the multiple challenges posed by the acute homelessness crisis and the ongoing strain of rising housing costs. They wondered how the federal election results will impact housing going forward.



Councilor Nolan, referring to the fourth bucket for city program funding, suggested that the City of Portland should receive a proportional benefit of funding given that it has the highest number of people in Population A.

Council President Peterson raised the issue of whether the program will operate as a grant or provide direct allocation.

Councilor Gonzalez stated that the program should not duplicate services counties are responsible for delivering. He noted that different cities will have different scales of need and available funding that should be recognized.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how the services bucket would fair in years with low revenue collection and where programs to support ownership belong within the plan.

Council President Peterson responded that there may be little to no funding for this bucket depending on the year. She added that housing ravers could be funded in the affordable housing bucket.

Councilor Simpson spoke to the importance of a regional program that provides fair access to SHS funding for small, medium, and large cities.

Councilor Lewis highlighted that there need to be a timely, simple, and efficient way for counties to allocate funding to their cities, which already provide critical services to people experiencing homelessness.

Councilor Hwang wondered how to reduce volatility within this bucket to ensure cities' needs are met with the allocation proposal.

Council President Peterson noted examples of services that cities provide and suggested finding more diverse methods of investment and funding.

Councilor Gonzalez stated that funding from this program should encourage increased collaboration between counties and cities. He requested clarification about how the funding for this program bucket would be decided.

Council President Peterson replied that it would likely be allocated by the Housing and Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee.

Councilor Hwang expressed his support for the \$250 million baseline with a four-year transition.

Councilor Rosenthal stated that he also supports the \$250 million baseline with a four-year transition.

Councilor Gonzalez shared his support for a \$250 million baseline with a three-year transition.

Councilor Nolan commented that they do not support the scenarios and adjustments presented. They also expressed that they will not support a program that reduces the amount of money provided to Multnomah County.

Council President Peterson stated her goals for the program, including clarification of program goals, program stability, and the development of performance metrics.

Councilor Rosenthal asked whether a particular time period for new program recommendations has been selected.

Council President Peterson explained that there is concern

about picking the right timeframe, and that this will be explored further in future sessions.

Councilor Gonzalez referenced the presentation and expressed his wish for more clarity about what percentage of funds will be going toward specific program areas.

Carrie MacLaren clarified that the subcommittee created during this work session would not be held under Oregon public meeting law as its only goal is information gathering, as opposed to offering recommendations to Council.

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:

- There were none.

#### **12:05 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- There were none.

#### **12:15 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Cooley, Legislative Assistant