



600 NE Grand Ave.  
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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shannon Singleton  
Nafisa Fai  
Paul Savas  
Keith Wilson  
Travis Stovall  
Jef Dalin  
Rian Windsheimer  
Ali Mirzakhali  
Anne McEnery-Ogle  
Leann Caver  
Juan Carlos Gonzalez  
Ashton Simpson  
Christine Lewis

AFFILIATION

Multnomah County  
Washington County  
Clackamas County  
City of Portland  
Cities of Multnomah County  
Cities of Washington County  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
City of Vancouver  
C-Tran  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Metro Council

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Joe Buck  
Sam Desue  
Curtis Robinhold  
Carley Francis  
Duncan Hwang

AFFILIATION

Cities of Clackamas County  
TriMet  
Port of Portland  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Metro Council

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Brett Sherman  
Chris Ford  
JC Vannatta  
Scott Langer  
Scott Patterson

AFFILIATION

Cities of Clackamas County  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
TriMet  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
C-Tran

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Plambeck, Casey Gillespie, Dan Bower, Dan Eisenbeis, Gerik Kranksy, Glen Bolen, Gregg Snyder, Isaiah Jackman, John Charles, Karen Buehrig, Monica Krueger, Neelam Dorman, Sarah Paulus, Jonathan Maus, Andrea Pastor, Mat Dolata, Allison Boyd, Brenda Bartlett, Eric Hesse, Jeff Owen, Katherine Kelly, Mark Ottenad, Tara O'Brien, Tiffany Gehrke, Trevor Sleeman, Jeff Gudman, Kate Hawkins, Dwight Brasher, Kevin McGrane, Mary Baumgardner

STAFF: Ted Leybold, Georgia Langer, Sam Hart, Ramona Perrault, Ken Lobeck, Betsy Emery, Ally Holmqvist, Blake Perez, Grace Cho, Jake Lovell, Jaye Cromwell, Lake McTighe, Councilor Rosenthal, Caleb Winter, Matt Binh, Jess Zdeb, Kate Gregory, Andre' Lightsey-Walker, Joe Gordon, Anne Buzzini, Kelly Betteridge, Council President Peterson

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

JPACT Chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Gonzalez called the role and declared a quorum.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Metro staff Georgia Langer read aloud the instructions for providing public testimony.

There being no testimony, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

### **3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Ted Leybold who shared the fatal traffic accidents that have occurred since the last meeting.

Chair Gonzalez introduced Ally Holmqvist, Senior Transportation Planner, to present the Transit Minute. Holmqvist provided updates on ridership numbers and trends, noting some improvements and changes that TriMet has introduced recently.

#### **3.1 Regional Rail Study Update**

Chair Gonzalez provided updates on two initiatives: first, Metro's study of using existing heavy freight rail assets for passenger rail alternatives is being developed in collaboration with regional partners and will culminate in a report to the Oregon legislature by December. Second, the Reconnecting Communities Planning Grants were awarded by USDOT to support equitable development strategies and community benefits along the 82nd Avenue and TV Highway bus rapid transit corridors.

Chair Gonzalez also welcomed new members. Mayor Keith Wilson, Commissioner Singleton, and Mayor Jef Dalin expressed appreciation to be involved in JPACT and enthusiasm for transit in the Metro area.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Gonzalez noted that there were two items on the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 25-5456 For The Purpose Of Adding Or Amending Nine Projects To The 2024-27 MTIP Including Six New Americans With Disabilities Act Upgrade Projects To Meet Federal Project Delivery Requirements, and the consideration of the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 JPACT Minutes.

**MOTION:** JC Vanatta moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Lewis.

**ACTION:** With all in favor, the consent agenda passed  
Seeing no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

## **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **5.1 JPACT Workplan Review**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Ted Leybold, Program Director, Planning and Development, Metro, and Betsy Emery, Federal Affairs Advisor, Metro to discuss the topic.

Staff pulled up the PowerPoint presentation.

#### *Presentation Summary:*

Presenters outlined Metro's 2024 transportation work program, including federally required tasks like allocating flexible funds, coordinating planning efforts, and preparing for a federal certification review. Regionally, JPAC will address priority projects such as 82nd Avenue, TV Highway, and the Montgomery Streetcar, alongside policy work stemming from the Regional Transportation Plan, including strategies for demand management and climate pollution reduction. On the federal front, new congressional leadership and uncertainty in Washington have prompted a shift from a large group fly-in to a focus on local advocacy and in-district events to orient new members, showcase regional projects, and strengthen relationships with Congress.

#### *JPACT Member Discussion:*

Commissioner Paul Savas expressed concern with the lack of a JPACT group trip to Washington DC this year, noting that there is work to be done despite difficulty from the administration.

Ali Mirzakhilili asked if there is anything we can do now to address the administration change rather than wait until September, and Emery clarified some of the mechanisms of the federal budget processes for their reconciliation bill and promised to bring back his question to the lobbyists.

Commissioner Shannon Singleton expressed interest in pivoting back to a large-group fly-in rather than many smaller-group fly-ins.

Rian Windsheimer supported the trip for the sake of relationship building, even if there is not a concrete ask.

Mayor Wilson agreed with Singleton and Windsheimer, stating that 'if you don't have a seat at the table, you are on the menu', and encouraged a plan of continuing to advocate for ourselves.

Mayor Jef Dalin emphasized giving a focused impression to our delegates so that our priorities are clear and the region is unified.

Councilor Lewis mentioned the difficulty of visiting during budget season, as well as during the hot summer months. She also noted the importance of selling our delegates on the importance of our priorities so they can be most effective.

Commissioner Nafisa Fai also reiterated the importance of building relationships in DC, particularly the Secretary of Transportation.

There being no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

## **5.2 Cooling Corridors**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Andre' Lightsey-Walker, Associate Transportation Planner, Metro, and Joe Gordon, Principal GIS Specialist, Metro, to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the PowerPoint presentation.

### *Presentation Summary:*

Presenters described how the cooling corridor study aims to address the growing issue of urban heat by identifying strategies and policies to enhance climate resilience. The project focuses on mapping hot and cool areas in the region, analyzing contributing factors, and exploring interventions such as tree canopy enhancement, green infrastructure, and urban planning to mitigate extreme heat impacts. The study involves collaboration with subject matter experts, community organizations, and government partners to build a comprehensive network for urban heat resilience. Outcomes include a final report with heat-reduction strategies, funding sources, GIS maps, and equity analyses to guide regional planning and investment. Engagement with stakeholders and feedback from various agencies will inform recommendations and ensure alignment with community needs.

### *JPACT Member Discussion:*

Councilor Brett Sherman commented on the importance of partnering with local organizations to make these goals happen.

Mirzakhilili suggested some potential partnerships that could be useful in this project.

Mayor Wilson expressed support and excitement for this project and looked forward to working with staff to make it happen this year.

Windsheimer commented on the challenges of ensuring community engagement and effectiveness in tree canopy restoration projects, highlighting the need to support advocacy groups in distributing trees on private property where they are most desired, rather than treating it as a "check-the-box" activity.

Commissioner Savas commented on the tension between tree canopy preservation and higher-density development, emphasizing the need to balance these competing priorities, acknowledge trade-offs, and explore how study findings might inform urban planning goals and adjustments.

Mayor Dalin highlighted the importance of leveraging existing work, referencing Washington County Public Health's collaboration on a regional heat mapping campaign and suggesting key contacts while also proposing engagement with local Boy Scout troops for project support.

Commissioner Singleton emphasized the importance of engaging culturally specific CBOs, homeless service providers, and leveraging resources across entities to address heat impacts, highlighting Multnomah County's ongoing work, partnerships like a recent EPA grant with Latino Network, and the need for continued collaboration with county staff.

Councilor Ashton Simpson encouraged staff to use this study to look at workforce potential, and to invite CORE to be a part of this work to ensure we are showing up for communities of color.

There being no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

### **5.3 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Step 1A.1: Initial Bond Scenarios and Reference Scenario Options Overview**

Chair Gonzalez introduced Grace Cho, Principal Transportation Planner, Metro, Ted Leybold, Program Director, Planning and Development, Metro, and Jean Senechal Biggs, Planning and Development Manager, Metro, to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the PowerPoint presentation.

#### *Presentation Summary:*

Presenters outlined the development process for a new project bond, sharing financial details, initial bond scenario exercises, and reference scenarios that assess impacts on regional flexible funds and long-term costs. They highlighted that initial scenarios, designed to maximize individual themes, revealed trade-offs and unmet program objectives, leading staff to propose final scenarios that balance performance across all five themes. The next steps include finalizing scenarios for financial assessment, conducting public comment in March and April, and addressing feedback from TPAC and Metro Council on equity outcomes, opportunity costs, and regional impacts to shape the preferred bond scenario.

#### *JPACT Member Discussion:*

Commissioner Savas asked for some clarification on the bonding process, inquiring if the local jurisdiction recipients of bond funds can be the bonding agents as well. Leybold agreed to discuss these options further.

Vanatta noted the importance of bringing as much money into the region as possible because federal funds are drying up.

Mayor Dalin expressed appreciation for the work on this project and suggested waiting a little longer to see how things go with the new administration before making a firm plan.

Councilor Lewis questioned why the Sunrise Corridor is not being included in some of these discussions and encouraged bonding.

Mirzakhilili requested some 'office hours' to ask further questions of staff.

Commissioner Singleton encouraged community building as a priority.

There being no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

**6. MEMBER UPDATES**

Councilor Simpson updated on the Cascadia Highspeed Rail project, noting the recent Step 2 Grant Award in federal and state funding to support technical planning, community engagement, and collaboration efforts across the corridor, with a focus on vision, ridership, environmental considerations, and governance for future phases.

Vanatta reported that Senate Bill 1633 took affect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, officially making drug use on public transit an arrestable offense to improve safety to transit users.

There being no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez moved onto the next agenda item.

**7.ADJOURN**

Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 9:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sam Hart*

Sam Hart,  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF January 16, 2025**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
3.0	Presentation	01/16/2025	Fatal Crash Slide	011625-01
3.1	Presentation	01/16/2025	Transit Minute	011625-02
5.1	Presentation	01/16/2025	JPACT Workplan Review Presentation	011625-03
5.2	Presentation	01/16/2025	Cooling Corridors Presentation	011625-04
5.3	Presentation	01/16/2025	RFFA: Step 1A.1 Initial Bond Scenarios and Reference Scenario Options Overview Presentation	011625-05