



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Tristan Penn; Rebecca Descombes

CORE Members: Saara Hirsi; Daniela Ortiz; Anthony Deloney; Nura Elmagbari, Nabin Dhimal; Quincy Brown; Jamila Dozier; Wade Hopkins; Ernesto Oliva; Maria Magallon; Brandon Culbertson

MERC Commissioners:

CORE Liaisons: Councilor Mary Nolan; Councilor Duncan Hwang

Metro staff: Raahi Reddy; Melissa Palavecino; Nathan Sykes; Raul Preciado Mendez; Councilor Christine Lewis; Kim Ellis; Molly Cooney-Mesker

Absent: Dañel Malan

Welcome

Tristan welcomed everyone into space and asked that everyone introduce themselves by stating their name, pronouns, and affiliation.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Community Updates

CORE members were asked to share community updates in the chat.

Committee Updates

Rebecca gave members a final reminder to fill out the subcommittee survey

Minutes Approval:

Minutes for November and January to be approved

Tristan moved to approve January meeting minutes
Saara seconded that motion
Maria abstained
All others approved.

Nura moved to approve amended meeting minutes for November
Jamila seconded that motion
All Approved

Metro Council Update

Councilor Lewis informed members that she will be leaving as the Council liaison and Councilor Hwang will be taking her place. She shared her gratitude for members and having had the opportunity to server as the council liaison. She told members to keep in touch and shared the many ways folks could get a hold of her.

CORE members shared their appreciation for councilor Lewis's time and leadership.

Regional Transportation Plan

Presenters: Kim Ellis, Molly Cooney-Mesker

Presenters walked through materials.

Nura commented that she wanted to see more concrete numbers around the goals they have for outreach and engagement of communities. She feels this will help with accountability for the project.

Quincy said he wanted to know which agencies were involved and what their role in the plan would be. By knowing who does what it make it easier for community members to hold those agencies accountable. He also remarked that it is difficult to hold the plan accountable in the sense of what the deliverables are in the projects being chosen. He asked what type of matrix and accountability will be used for those projects that are not uplifting racial equity values.

Tristen stated that he would like to see what the process is and what the long-term impact is. And asked if there were any stop gaps or milestones built in for adjustments or pivoting if needed.

Kim responded by saying that the plan is updated five years to better understand what changes are needed and what changes are expected. For each updated they look at where they are falling short by reviewing data.

Tristen followed up with the suggestion of shortening the time in-between the updates to 3 or 2.5 years instead of the 5.

Quincy responded to Tristen stating that in order for those stop gaps to be shorten it would have to come down from the federal level. And funding for those updates would have to be made available as well.

Rebecca read the question Maria posted in the chat which was “is ODOT’s I-205 tolling project a part of this updated plan”

Kim responded that ODOT’s I-205 tolling project is not currently a project in the regional transportation plan. It is a topic of discussion right now, with the Metro Council and JPACT. ODOT has requested an amendment for planning for the preliminary engineering phase. This is something that will be discussed in advance of the plan. And then, as part of the update itself.

Rebecca also read Jamila’s question from the chat, which was “My big question about the values/outcomes/actions especially in the racial equity and mobility values was “how”. Engagement with communities living at the margins is only half of the effort. Our communities are constantly brought to spaces to answer questions about what they need, but nothing comes from it. How will this be measured?”

Kim responded that she thinks part of how it's all being measured is what gets built on the ground. Where and what is being invested in. They are trying to build on previous engagements and bring that information to the policymakers and decision makers. They are committed to continuing to build, what they’ve heard through this work, and will be looking for ways to demonstrate that and not just keep coming back and asking the same questions.

Molly added that one of the things that they've been working on is to look across many of the efforts that are happening on a local level to pull in some of what has been learned there because they know, that many community members, and especially community members of color, low-income and disabled community members are being unfairly burdened by how many places and spaces they're being asked to show up in and provide time and emotional labor. So they are trying to look to what has been shared recently in other spaces, to make sure that they are incorporating that to the extent they can in this process.

Councilor Hwang stated that one of his priorities while on the Metro council is to really think about how to improve transparency and engagement. He asked the committee members what would keep their communities involved in this super important RTP.

Nura responded that projects like this one are often very confusing for community members due to the numerous changes that happen. She feels that simplifying the materials is needed to keep community members involved.

Quincy added that his organization is teaching a transportation leadership class for immigrant, refugees and young people who are passionate about wanting to address the climate concerns of, for example, expanding our freeways but don't necessarily have the civic literacy to understand how to navigate those issues. The six-week course allowed for students to learn about the different municipalities, how government works, how to navigate neighborhood associations, and then how to demonstrate an innovative solution to a climate change transportation issue. He also feels that utilizing some of the more city-based, healthy initiatives to provide demonstration concepts to community members, so they can start to understand, what the different changes could be as Regional transportation updates are happening.

Rebecca asked both Maria and Wade's question from the chat respectively. "Are there measurable milestones in place that will inform whether the plan is on the right track and is community involved in the evaluations?" and "Are the values equally weighted?"

Maria followed up her question by adding that it would be good to have agency's circle back to communities on the input they gave.

Kim responded that no decision has been made about the values and their weight. What they have heard from Metro Council and JPACT is their broad support for leading with racial equity. Which is something they will continue to refine as they move forward. As for the other question about the measurable milestones, that is a part of what Molly will be working on. As of now they haven't defined the full work plan or the engagement plan. The suggestions and ideas from CORE on how to define what success looks like from a community stand point will help to create the work plan and engagement plan.

Councilor Nolan asked that the committee send over what they consider to be a useful measurements and what do they think should be measured. Any examples of those measurements would also be helpful. Lastly, what are the ambitious goals they want to set within those measurements?

Follow-up on Bylaws Conversation

Rebecca went over the feedback that was given by the committee on the Byelaws and Raul talk about some proposed administrative changes.

Nabin recommended that after two absences the committee member meet with the co-chairs instead of the three that is currently in the language.

Adjourn