

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 2026

10:00 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber;  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=U8UDfPWW-U8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8UDfPWW-U8)

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Acting Council President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. With the consent of the Council, Acting Council President Hwang announced a change to the order of business to hear Chief Operating Officer Communications and Council Communications before the first presentation, as reflected in these minutes.

**Present:** 4 - Acting Council President Duncan Hwang, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

**Excused:** 2 - Councilor Mary Nolan, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

**2. Public Communication**

None.

**3. Consent Agenda****3.1 Resolution No. 26-5583 For the Purpose of Confirming the Reappointment of Abe Vega to the Metro Committee on Racial Equity**

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5583](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

**3.2 Consideration of the March 5, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [March 5, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**3.3 Consideration of the March 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [March 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**3.4 Consideration of the March 12, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [March 12, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Lewis, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Chief Operating Officer Madrigal reported that the Metro Mixer at the Oregon Zoo had been a good opportunity to connect with staff and elected officials from other local governments.

**7. Councilor Communication**

Councilor Lewis provided an update on the most recent Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation meeting. She shared the agenda included time to consider a project list for the upcoming capital improvement plan. She also shared that the Oregon Zoo Foundation is seeking opportunities to leverage existing bond funds with foundation dollars. She added that three debate teams from schools in the greater Portland region had advanced to championships.

Councilor Rosenthal shared that he attended a presentation about Metro’s Future Vision at the Westside Economic Alliance. Attendees agreed on the importance of engaging local economy stakeholders in the process. Acting Council President Hwang shared that he also attended a presentation in Washington County with the Chamber of Commerce.

The Councilors also discussed priorities for an upcoming retreat. Councilor Lewis felt discussing a Code of Conduct was important, as well as addressing how Councilors work with staff in departments to meet their policy needs. She emphasized the need for policies that facilitate compliance with the serial meetings law.

**4. Presentations**

**4.1 Presentation of the FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget and Budget Message**

Presenter(s): Metro Auditor Brian Evans (he/him)  
Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Chief Operating Officer  
Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1 - Resolution No. 26-5586](#)  
[Attachment 2a - Capital Asset Management](#)  
[Attachment 2b - Communications](#)  
[Attachment 2c - Council Office and Office of the COO](#)  
[Attachment 2d - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)  
[Attachment 2e - Expo](#)  
[Attachment 2f - Finance](#)  
[Attachment 2g - Housing](#)  
[Attachment 2h - Human Resources](#)  
[Attachment 2i - Information Technology](#)  
[Attachment 2j - Office of Metro Attorney](#)  
[Attachment 2k - Oregon Convention Center](#)  
[Attachment 2l - Oregon Zoo](#)  
[Attachment 2m - Parks and Nature](#)  
[Attachment 2n - Planning, Development and Research](#)  
[Attachment 2o - Portland's Centers for the Arts](#)  
[Attachment 2p - Waste Prevention & Environmental Services](#)

After a brief recess, the meeting reconvened with Councilor Nolan in attendance at 10:31 a.m.

Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal, serving as the Budget Officer, presented an overview of the proposed budget and budget message. She was joined by Chief Financial Officer Brian Kennedy. Metro Auditor Brian Evans also presented his budget.

Acting Council President Hwang convened the Budget Committee at 11:03 a.m., and the clerk read the resolution to approve the budget into the record, by title.

Acting Council President Hwang asked CFO Kennedy to comment on the impacts that cost cutting during the development of the current fiscal year's budget had on the future outlook. CFO Kennedy noted that previous stabilizing actions have put departments in a much better place, even as conditions for some

departments remain difficult. He also noted that future fiscal years will benefit from efficiencies in technology, human resources, and more due to current investments.

Acting Council President Hwang also asked whether the zero-based budgeting approach used by Waste Prevention and Environmental Services would be appropriate for all departments. CFO Kennedy noted that different approaches can fit different situations, and that each department has gone through a rigorous process.

Councilor Simpson thanked staff for responsible budgeting and asked about impacts of national economic trends on Metro's budget. CFO Kennedy referred to past experiences during and after the Great Recession, particularly for events at Metro venues. Councilor Simpson excused himself from the rest of the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

COO Madrigal remarked on the importance of balancing fiscal stewardship, trust building, strong operations, and investing in the region.

CFO Kennedy clarified for Councilor Rosenthal that Metro's ad valorem rate has not changed, and the budget cycle will coincide with upcoming actions regarding Metro's operational responsibility at Portland's Centers for the Arts transferring to the City of Portland.

Councilor Lewis asked whether the budget contemplates rising fuel costs; CFO Kennedy noted that while fuel costs have risen sharply, some of Metro's fleet has been electrified, and the budget for hauling waste to the Arlington landfill is conservative so as to cover such increases. Auditor Evans clarified for Councilor Lewis that compensation for non-auditor staff are based on both internal Metro benchmarks and compensation studies.

Acting Council President Hwang noted to his colleagues that they may submit budget amendment requests in May, and he announced upcoming public hearing opportunities for the public.

Councilor González joined the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

**4.1.1 Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget**

No testimony.

**4.2 Supportive Housing Services County Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter Two Reports**

Presenter(s): Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Metro Supportive Housing Services Division Director  
RJ Stangland (he/him), Metro Housing Finance Manager  
Vahid Brown (he/him), Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development, Clackamas County of Health, Housing and Human Services  
Anna Plumb (she/her), Interim Director, Multnomah County Homeless Services Department  
Jes Larson (she/her), Assistant Director, Washington County Department of Housing Services

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1 - Clackamas County](#)  
[Attachment 2 - Multnomah County](#)  
[Attachment 3 - Washington County](#)

Staff from Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties each shared their program highlights, regional highlights, and expenditures by category for the second quarter of the current fiscal year. Metro staff then shared information about tax revenues.

Regarding a description of porting vouchers, which allow residents to move across county lines while continuing to receive services, Councilor Lewis expressed her thanks for the service and

emphasized its importance to families and students, and her interest in making the resource more accessible and successful. Staff also clarified for Councilor Nolan that the policy for porting vouchers is within regional control, and that counties do not subsidize services but instead only transfer residents from one system to another.

Councilor González was excited about modernizing the Homeless Management Information System. He asked how eviction prevention dollars are categorized. Staff noted that invoicing and budgeting would become more aligned as the year continues, as programs focus on spending their most restrictive funds first-which may fall into different categories while supporting eviction prevention.

Councilor Nolan asked about differing definitions to services and outcomes across the region. Metro staff noted that improvements to data collection and analysis will allow for bringing common data to the Regional Policy and Oversight Committee and Council in the near future. Multnomah County staff added that a partnership with Health Share of Oregon helps maintain alignment of definitions with the health care system.

Councilor Nolan asked staff to comment on outcomes and efficiency. Staff pointed to success with rapid rehousing services, retention for permanent supportive housing units across a multi-year period and ensuring shelter beds serve as a pathway to housing.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the ease youth might have navigating the system to receive services across county lines. Staff noted local community groups serving youth, coordination across counties, and efforts to ensure access to the system is flexible.

Acting Council President Hwang noted his desire to address a

shared framework for continuous improvement in the region. Councilor Lewis also added that the time is appropriate for developing an aligned, regional approach to eviction prevention, as state funding is cut.

**5. Resolutions****5.1 Resolution No. 26-5585 For the Purpose of Approving Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Funding for Grants Funded with the Construction Excise Tax**

Presenter(s): Serah Breakstone, 2040 Grants Program Manager  
Hau Hagedorn, Community Investments Manager

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5585](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1 - 26Q1 Grant Application Summary and Recommendations](#)

Staff from Prosper Portland shared the project background and local context for the Green Loop. Metro staff then shared an overview of the Tigard project recommended for funding, as well as an application from Rivergrove that was not recommended.

Councilor Nolan expressed concern about next steps for the Rivergrove application and wondered whether Rivergrove was prepared to provide different housing options. Councilor Lewis advocated for Metro to continue to work with Rivergrove as the City faces unique constraints and has no planning staff; she appreciated that they sought additional resources to support livability. Councilor González hoped Rivergrove would look at density and infill in their next application, but he thanked them for engaging in the process.

Acting Council President Hwang asked how lessons learned from other transportation increment financing districts could influence the Tigard project. Staff acknowledged some TIF (TIF) districts have

challenges and others have improved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Acting Council President Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Gonzalez

**Nay:** 1 - Councilor Lewis

**Excused:** 1 - Councilor Simpson

**8. Adjourn**

Acting Council President Hwang adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.



Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor  
April 10, 2026