

Date: Wednesday May 10, 2023  
To: Public Engagement Review Committee members  
From: Gloria Pinzón Marin  
Subject: Draft two of Guiding Principles for Public Engagement for Public Engagement Guide update

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Dear PERC members,

We thank you for the input you provided on the first draft of the Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement on April 06, 2023 or after the meeting. Below is an updated list of the guiding principles for discussion at your May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Once you, as a committee, review and vote on the guiding principles, the project team will share a final version of the updated guiding principles with Metro Council for consideration and adoption.

**About the updates made in this draft:**

The second draft of the proposed guiding principles were informed by:

- 1) the COVID 19 Community Engagement Policy, adopted in 2020
- 2) the 2013 version of the Public Engagement Guide
- 3) input from Metro Public Engagement Review Committee members
- 4) input from Metro Council and Metro's community engagement and staff

Suggestions for changes from reviewers included:

- Consider shortening the list of guiding principles.
- Clarify and simplify the language.
- Clarify if these are commitments, values or beliefs.
- Add capacity building for community-based organizations and individuals as a principle.
- Remove exclusive language "citizen"
- Ensure small and large businesses are included.
- Other feedback included suggestions on how to apply the guiding principles.

Key terms to consider:

**Meaningful engagement** is inclusive, relationship-based, trauma informed, honors the communication and engagement needs of participants, and input from participants can impact decision-making.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 05/10/2023** (with suggested edits shown in red)

**Metro's Proposed guiding principles for meaningful public engagement at Metro** (Draft 2)

**Metro believes...**

1	Public participation is an essential part of <del>government</del> <u>Metro's</u> decision-making.
2	Transparency about <del>government</del> decision-making is fundamental to successful public service.
3	Meaningful public engagement processes apply equity, diversity, and inclusion strategies and tools to help identify and address the needs of impacted, underserved, and historically excluded communities.
4	Engagement and communications are accessible, informative, timely and inclusive of the rich diversity of lived experiences and perspectives across greater Portland.
5	Collaboration and capacity-building efforts with community-based organizations, groups and individuals that are impacted, underserved, or historically excluded are essential to address regional issues equitably.
6	Intergovernmental collaboration, coordination, and consultation are essential to address regional issues holistically and efficiently.
7	Evaluation of engagement activities during and after a project facilitates growth and process improvement.

**Information for consideration about each guiding principle.**

*The information in the table below requires further review by PERC committee, metro staff, and Metro Council.*

1	<p><b>Public participation is an essential part of government decision-making.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: Sustainable, equitable and impactful policies, projects and programs require input from all potentially impacted perspectives.</i></p> <p>Public involvement should be well resourced and be a significant part of government decision-making to create sustainable, equitable and impactful policies, projects, and programs. Sustainable, equitable and impactful policies, projects and programs require input from all potentially impacted perspectives. This includes, but is not limited to, topic experts and historically empowered stakeholders such as businesses, industry groups and environmental advocates to people who have been historically excluded from governmental decisions, including Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, people with lower incomes and wealth, people living with disabilities, English language learners and younger people.</p> <p><i>Guide: Examples of meaningful or inclusive engagement would be included in the guide in an appendix.</i></p>
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2	<p><b>Transparency about government decision-making is fundamental to successful public service.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: Ensures accountability and works to build trust with the public.</i></p> <p>Transparency includes having timely information readily available for the public, sharing what decision was made, what informed a decision, who was engaged, and any trade-offs that were considered within the process.</p>
3	<p><b>Meaningful public engagement processes apply equity, diversity, and inclusion strategies and tools to help identify and address the needs of impacted, underserved, and historically excluded communities.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: inform timelines, resources, goals and key audiences for engagement process.</i></p> <p>Application of this principle includes acknowledging history of systemic racism, identifying key audiences to involve in specific projects as well as adaptive timelines for projects. Applying equity tools in engagement processes benefits all community members by addressing the needs of those most highly impacted. It includes but is not limited to using Metro’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, using Metro’s Racial Equity Framework, audience, power-mapping, and IAP2 spectrum of participation. These tools would be attached in the appendix of the updated public engagement guide.</p>
4	<p><b>Engagement and communications are accessible, informative, timely and inclusive of the rich diversity of lived experiences and perspectives across greater Portland.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: create welcoming spaces for participants, meeting them where they are, move away from exclusionary power structures, and acknowledge that communities are not a monolith.</i></p> <p>This principle relates to how we meet with communities as well as how we communicate in a way that is relevant and responsive to the diverse lived experiences and perspectives. This includes but is not limited to people from across the region with unique cultural, language needs, people living with disabilities, businesses of varying sizes and young people.</p>
5	<p><b>Collaboration and capacity-building efforts with community-based organizations, groups and individuals that are impacted, underserved, or historically excluded are essential to address regional issues equitably.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: Moves away from extractive/transactional relationships, reduces barriers to participation, increases participation by historically excluded residents, leads to better informed government decision-making, reduces burn-out in partners.</i></p> <p>Meaningful engagement with people and organizations that have been impacted, underserved, and excluded from government decision-making is important to restore past harms and build a more just future for future generations in collaboration with impacted communities. People see themselves represented.</p>
6	<p><b>Intergovernmental collaboration, coordination, and consultation are essential to address regional issues holistically and efficiently.</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: As a regional government, Metro can serve as a convener to connect people across greater Portland. This principle includes city, county, state, federal, and Tribal government partners.</i></p> <p>Honors the diversity in experience, needs and geographic connection of partner agencies and Tribal Nations and leverages the connections they already have to the communities they serve. Note that consultation with Tribal Nations is a unique relationship that is government to government and is different from engaging with urban indigenous populations.</p>

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**Evaluation of engagement activities during and after a project facilitates growth and process improvement.**

*Purpose: Improvement of practices, creates opportunities for shared learning, and ideally, uplifts community member voices in the process.*