

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**10:30 AM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free)**

## **Council work session**

**10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Deputy Council President Simpson called the work session to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Excused:** 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

**10:30 Work Session Topics:****10:30 Future Vision: Follow-Up Scoping Discussion**

Presenters reviewed input on goals from the Council work session on March 25, 2025, including more comprehensive community engagement, partnering with the business community, and incorporating data-driven trends.

Councilor Gonzalez identified opportunities for the region to position itself as a place connected to nature where people and businesses can grow.

Councilor Hwang attributed the difficulty of creating a unified vision for the region to lack of coordination among agencies. He recommended balancing outcomes with funding and a growing reliance on local governments.

Councilor Lewis asked that planning remain focused on ensuring livability for residents, particularly when considering revenue mechanisms used for investments.

Councilor Rosenthal suggested leveraging the current sociopolitical climate. He also shared a desire to broaden the focus on equity beyond racial equity but received pushback from his colleagues.

Councilor Nolan asked to ensure the vision is practical and

actionable with clear options for integrating findings and actions into public and private sector decisions.

Deputy President Simpson raised transformative social change and change in governing as critical factors for a successful or flexible vision.

For types of engagement, Councilor Gonzalez asked Metro to leverage visitor venues to host large events for public input, and Councilor Rosenthal suggested Chautauquas.

For whom to engage Councilors specified local employers, people unfamiliar with Metro, and youth voices. Councilor Nolan asked how to prepare future leaders in a divisive political climate. Councilor Hwang noted that the arts and culture community includes visionaries leading community placemaking efforts.

Deputy President Simpson pressed the importance of restorative justice through the next 50 years.

Councilor Lewis encouraged participation from new residents and remaining competitive as a region. Councilor Gonzalez cited data about affordability and attracting Gen Z and Gen Alpha workforce to the region.

Councilor Gonzalez hoped that the process would allow participants to address all aspects of change required to achieve goals, leaving no topic-like tax reform-off-limits.

Councilor Lewis said Metro should communicate its role setting the table. Councilor Hwang said participants should feel empowered to co-create the vision, not merely engage in developing it. He also stressed that businesses and foundations expand on possibilities where government reach is limited.

Councilors discussed how participants could be asked to represent broad community feedback as individuals. Councilor Nolan asked Metro to resource committee members to collect feedback from their own communities to relay back. Councilor Lewis pointed to past approaches to provided staff support to committee members. Councilor Hwang suggested reaching new audiences through social media education.

#### 12:00 Regional Workforce Gap Analysis Introduction

Staff reviewed project goals, engagement with partners and relationship to other projects, and asked for Council feedback on project scope to align priorities.

Councilor Lewis noted the region's past strength in supporting emerging industries and connected nursing with regional public health challenges. Councilor Hwang noted the region's film industry, and Councilor Rosenthal emphasized gaps in transportation networks.

Councilor Hwang asked how the agency can foster industry clusters and asked for case studies to review; Councilor Gonzalez pointed to statewide investments in key clusters that provide direction. Staff replied that land use and capital investments attract industry, but that the project will define more opportunities for specific industries as it develops alongside the Future Vision.

Councilor Nolan and Deputy President Simpson prioritized supporting BIPOC communities over attracting companies looking for the lowest bidder and relying on existing data about poverty, affordable housing, and employment rates to promote wealth building.

#### 12:50 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal updated Council on HR opportunities for staff.

**12:55 Councilor Communication**

Councilor Rosenthal shared economic information from a recent meeting with Portland Metro Chamber, and Deputy President Simpson asked staff to provide Council with the examples of other cities' approaches to homeless services from the SHS workgroup.

**1:00 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Simpson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor