

[STAFF REPORT FOR USE FOR WORK SESSIONS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS]

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5139, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Date: 11/23/2020
Department: Capital Asset Management
Meeting Date: 12/10/2020

Presenter(s) (if applicable): Courtney
Patterson
Length: 10 minutes

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349-5053

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro plays an official role in disaster debris management following a regional incident and will need to have a common framework to partner with other local governments and the private sector. Metro has leveraged the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework in responding to recent emergencies, including COVID-19 and disastrous wildfires in the region. Our work around emergency transportation routes for the region is eligible for federal funding support upon adoption of the NIMS framework. Thus, a framework is needed to provide consistency and efficiency in responding to emergencies like wildfires, COVID-19, or other incidents and ensuring eligibility for federal funds.

National incidents, especially the terrorist attack on 9-11-2001, demonstrated that the entire country needed a streamlined process for managing emergency incidents. In March 2004, FEMA issued the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework to create a scalable structure for managing all incidents from a house fire to a global pandemic. Since 2004, thousands of local, state, federal, non-profit, and private agencies have adopted NIMS. In order to gain access to federal emergency management grant funds and formalize its emergency management program, Metro must also adopt NIMS.

ACTION REQUESTED

We recommend adoption of resolution No. 20-5139. This resolution formalizes Metro's emergency management program and provides policy guidance to utilize NIMS, the national emergency response standard.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

This resolution seeks to adopt a national standard for emergency response. NIMS is a framework and can be adjusted to meet Metro specific functions and structure. It allows Metro to use the same structure that is used by local, state, federal, non-profit and private sector partners.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Should Metro utilize the National Incident Management System as a framework for responding to regional emergencies?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Adopt the National Incident Management System:

- Respond to incidents in a manner consistent with the national framework;
- Ensures eligibility for federal funding support;
- Allows Metro staff and programs to interoperate with other local, state, federal, non-profit, and private sector partners.

Choose not to adopt the National Incident Management System:

- Lose eligibility for over \$200,000 this FY in federal homeland security grants and potential future funding in future FYs;
- Risk confusion in response strategies with other partners.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS) via resolution to provide a framework for responding to emergencies and ensure Metro's eligibility for federal homeland security grant funds.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Metro's role in responding to regional emergencies stems from previous policy adoption for the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and the Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion strategy. Implementation of these plans and responding to regional emergencies requires coordination both internally and externally.

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan has three goals related to emergency response and resilience. NIMS adoption is a basic first step towards building emergency management partnerships and a solid emergency management program.

As COVID-19 has demonstrated, emergencies have disproportionate impacts on communities of color. Emergency management work that is grounded in equity principles will build resilience in the most impacted communities.

Local government partners have encouraged Metro to build an emergency management program especially around its post-disaster debris management roles. COVID-19 has also shown that our partners will look to Metro for assistance with sheltering.

In Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5), President Bush called on the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a national incident management system to provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, tribal and local governments to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity.

On March 1, 2004, after close collaboration with state and local government officials and representatives from a wide range of public safety organizations, Homeland Security issued the NIMS .

Oregon adopted NIMS as its Incident Management System through legislative statute 401.092

To encourage other governments to adopt NIMS homeland security grant funds require that all recipient agencies formally adopt NIMS before they are eligible for the grant. Metro is slated to receive Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 2018 reimbursement and must adopt NIMS before 12/31/2020.

BACKGROUND

At the March 3, 2020 Council work session Courtney Patterson previewed this resolution. Council discussed the Emergency Operations Plan and ongoing preparations for COVID-19 response. At the November 5, 2020 work session, staff shared how the agency responded to regional wildfires using the NIMS framework.

The Council resolution to formalize the emergency management program with a NIMS resolution was delayed due to COVID-19 and wildfire response workload. However, Metro's Incident Management Team (IMT) has used the NIMS framework and Emergency Operations Plan throughout the response.

ATTACHMENTS

Powerpoint to be submitted closer to the presentation date