

STAFF REPORT

SHAPING THE REGIONAL GARBAGE TRANSFER SYSTEM

Date: April 30, 2026

Department: Waste Prevention and Environmental Services

Meeting Date: May 19, 2026

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Length: 45 mins

ISSUE STATEMENT

The *Shaping the Regional Garbage Transfer System* project is a key component of implementing the Regional System Facilities Plan. The project will evaluate Metro’s garbage tonnage allocation program and its regulation of private transfer stations to ensure the regional transfer system reduces waste, maximizes public benefit, and operates efficiently. This discussion is part of a multi-phase engagement process informed by Regional Waste Advisory Committee input and technical analysis.

ACTION REQUESTED

Informational – This session will provide key background information and context to inform future engagement on this topic.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Understanding of the project’s major phases, including stakeholder and Regional Waste Advisory Committee engagement, Council decision points, garbage transfer fundamentals and performance goals.

POLICY QUESTION

Do Councilors have questions about the project approach or the fundamentals of the garbage transfer system?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Not applicable

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Shaping the regional garbage transfer system

As part of the Regional System Facilities plan development, Metro Council identified the need to evaluate the current approach to allocating wet waste to ensure the system optimizes waste reduction, maximizes public benefit and improves system efficiency. Council also identified the need to explore options to maintain, modify or add regulations

for private facilities to better serve the public interest. To carry out this work, Metro launched the Shaping the Regional Garbage Transfer System project, which will evaluate:

- The impact of changes to how garbage tonnage is allocated to public and private transfer stations
- The effects of reducing or removing the garbage tonnage currently allocated to Metro’s public transfer stations, allowing more waste to be taken to private facilities
- Options for updating how Metro regulates private facilities to better serve the public interest

This project will be carried out in four major phases, summarized below.



During the first phase, staff engaged the Regional Waste Advisory Committee to provide background on the regional garbage transfer system and develop recommended transfer system performance goals. These goals will guide scenario development and establish criteria for measuring success. Key committee engagement is summarized below:

- November 20, 2025: Technical session providing background and context on the regional garbage transfer system and introducing proposed performance goals.
- December 18, 2025: Presentation of survey feedback, discussion of information needs, and refinement of proposed performance goals.
- January 22, 2026: Presentation of committee feedback and further refinement of performance goals.
- February 26, 2026: Presentation of survey feedback, and development of a formal committee recommendation to Metro Council on the transfer system performance goals.

The second and third phases will focus on developing and analyzing potential scenarios to improve the garbage transfer system, informed by input from both the committee and Metro Council. In the fourth phase, the committee and Council will identify potential

changes regarding garbage allocation among transfer stations and Metro's regulation of private transfer stations.

BACKGROUND

Regional Outcomes

Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department operates within a strategic framework rooted in the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#) and [Regional Systems Facilities Plan](#). This framework ensures that programs, services and investments fulfill Metro's core responsibilities and align with the region's long-term sustainability goals. The department's work is guided by three key outcomes:

Waste Prevention and Healthy Environment – Reducing waste at its source and managing materials to their highest and best use.

An Excellent, Accessible and Resilient Garbage and Recycling System – Ensuring high-quality, affordable, and accessible services for all communities.

Shared Prosperity – Creating economic opportunities within the waste and recycling sector that support inclusion and community well-being.

Shaping the regional garbage transfer system

This project will assess potential changes to public and private tonnage allocations and explore updates to private facility regulations to better serve the region. The Regional Waste Advisory Committee, a policy level committee that advises Metro Council on the management of the garbage and recycling system, will provide input and guidance at important points throughout the project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Shaping the regional garbage transfer system resource packet
2. Regional Waste Advisory Committee recommendation for transfer system performance goals