

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 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=8EYzc2pKfpA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EYzc2pKfpA)

Council work session

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Council President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and convened a meeting of the budget committee.

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

2. Work Session Topics:**2.1 Parks and Nature Budget Workshop**

Presenter(s): Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature Director

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature Director, presented the Parks and Nature budget, including the budget context, the budget overview, budget modifications and budget performance measures. He specifically highlighted budget challenges for ongoing operations.

Somer Erickson, Parks and Nature Finance Manager, responded to comments and concerns from Acting Council President Hwang and Councilor Nolan about COBID utilization for bond projects. She explained that some assumptions include payments to primary contractors who subcontract with COBID firms.

Councilor Lewis had understood a past budget to commit funds for software to track payments to subcontractors. Chief Financial Officer Brian Kennedy explained the limitations of the existing software and the need balance efficiency in tracking and depth of data.

Councilor González pressed on the importance of meeting goals to utilize COBID contracts for 20% or more of bond projects. Councilor Rosenthal asked what changes would be made to support goals in the future. Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal added that the discussion affected agency-wide procurement processes.

Director Blasher clarified for Councilor Lewis upcoming investment priorities, and described a prioritization tool that balances access needs like critical infrastructure with environmental priorities like habitat preservation. Councilor Lewis then she hoped to see access to facilities like restrooms for residents.

Councilor Nolan asked about the demographics for parks visitors, such as race, gender, and mobility. Director Blasher noted work is underway to collect additional data to support targeted universalism. He noted that GIS mapping determined that 98% of the region is within a 20-minute drive of a regional nature park, although he recognized that not all residents drive.

Councilor González felt it import to avoiding striving for quotas when working to increase access for all residents. His priorities for next steps included coalition building, increasing access, and communicating investments through stories. He highlighted that while a major investment may be a few miles away, the impacts of bond investments are felt in every neighborhood.

Councilor Lewis emphasized the opportunity to share with the community Metro's early investments in major projects along the Willamette River.

Acting Council President Hwang asked staff to provide more background about valuing property acquisitions. Director Blasher pointed to fostering partnerships and relationships, assessing operational burdens, and considering science-driven benefits.

2.2 Zoo Budget Workshop

Presenter(s): Heidi Rahn, Director Oregon Zoo

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Heidi Rahn, Oregon Zoo Director, presented strategic focus areas for the zoo and an overview of the budget. Mike Hogan, Oregon

Zoo Foundation Executive Director, described efforts to bolster support for projects with donor resources.

Councilor González expressed excitement about the zoo’s work to save endangered species and communicate zoo conservation efforts on social media to millions of people with global reach.

Director Rahn identified parking constraints at Washington Park as an operational risk, relying on relationships with private property owners in the vicinity.

Councilor Lewis appreciated the zoo’s unique and successful relationship with Metro. She asked about efforts to lobby for federal dollars, and Director Rahn referred to recently secured funding for condors and advocacy days with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Director Rahn offered to follow up with Councilor Lewis about requests the zoo receives for species preservation that it cannot accept.

Director Rahn clarified for Councilor Rosenthal that the zoo faces resource constraints due to bond construction in the short-term, but that the Oregon Zoo Foundation can continue to partner with schools to expand educational opportunities.

2.3 Waste Prevention & Environmental Services Budget Workshop

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire, Director, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services
Patrick Dennis, Finance Manager, Waste Prevention and Environment Services

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Dr. Marta McGuire, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) Director, reviewed regional outcomes from the Regional Waste Plan, a budget overview, the proposed budget, operational adjustments, program alignment, and performance measures. The WPES finance manager also reviewed the proposed solid waste fee and regional system fee, alongside an overview of the garbage and

recycling system.

In initial comments, Councilor Lewis asked staff to emphasize engagement with the City of Oregon City in development Metro South. Staff also noted for Councilor Rosenthal that the rate model was developed prior to global events affecting fuel prices but that monitoring is ongoing.

Councilor González demonstrated support for WPES's zero-based budgeting, remarking that it has a positive impact on reaching core goals. He also asked to learn more about the impact of forecasted tonnage decreases, and how bulky waste and household hazardous waste would be addressed through the budget. Staff noted that new changes to programs, including Metro's investments in Regional Illegal Dumping Patrol and collection events, a fund for local governments to host collection events, and the Recycling Modernization Act and its related funding have had impacts on the system. Staff noted that targeted universalism approaches are particularly appropriate for meeting the needs of different communities for bulky waste and hazardous waste.

Councilor Lewis expressed concern about Metro's role as a regulator and inspector. Staff described positions to manage licensing, revenue and reconciliation, expressing confidence in staff available for site visits that meets a high industry standard. Staff also confirmed for Councilor Lewis and increases to the Community Enhancement Grant program are attributable to funding spent in different budget years than originally anticipated.

Staff noted for Councilor Simpson that Metro would implement a phased approach for six recycling depots.

Councilor Nolan asked whether capital improvements planned in the upcoming fiscal year would be fully funded or required

financing. Staff confirmed that existing funds would be used for those improvements.

ACP Hwang reiterated questions and concerns about COBID contracting goals. Staff referred to agency-wide guidelines for procurement, and COO Madrigal and CFO Kennedy affirmed the timeline and outcomes for COBID contracting through procurement.

Councilor González expressed an interest in environmental impacts of waste, and he asked for work sessions on commercial food scraps and performance across the region.

Councilor Lewis expressed an interest in continuing to innovate recycling options and to supplement improvements made through the Recycling Modernization Act.

Acting Council President Hwang adjourned the budget meeting at 12:57 p.m.

3 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal announced new regular reports from staff about major committee meetings. Councilor Nolan requested that previous year’s proposed and current budget actual spending during presentations.

4. Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis reported the most recent Future Vision Commission meeting, and Roosevelt won the national debate championship. Councilor González added that the Youth Commission joined the Future Vision Commission and shared their input.

Councilor Rosenthal reported that the city representatives at the Washington County Coordinating Committee were concerned about state laws related to ethics.

5. Adjourn

Acting Council President Hwang adjourned at the work session at 1:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Buzzini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
April 27, 2026