

Legal Antecedents

Pursuant to Metro Code 5.01.180, the Council will consider the following factors when determining whether to issue a franchise:

- (1) *Whether the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed solid waste facility and authorized activities will be consistent with the Regional Waste Plan;*

Staff finds that the proposed activity is consistent with the regional values and policies outlined in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and specifically aligns with many of the goals of the plan, including goals 12, 13 and 16:

- **Goal 12:** Manage all garbage and recycling operations to reduce their nuisance, safety and environmental impacts on workers and the public.
- **Goal 13:** Invest in communities that receive garbage and recyclables from the Metro region so that those communities regard solid waste facilities as assets.
- **Goal 16:** Maintain a system of facilities, from small recycling drop-off depots to larger full-service stations, to ensure equitable distribution of and access to services.

The proposed renewal is also in alignment with the Regional System Facilities plan adopted by Metro Council in March 2025, which envisions continued operations of the six privately owned transfer stations operating within the Metro region.

- (2) *The effect that granting a franchise will have on the cost of solid waste disposal and recycling services for the residents of the region;*

GSS Transfer, LLC has not requested any significant change in authorization or operational activities at this facility. Renewing the franchise would help ensure continuity of transfer service and minimize potential disruptions to the solid waste system. This is an existing transfer station that is part of the region's solid waste system. As such, the proposed renewal is not expected to have any significant impact on the cost of solid waste disposal and recycling services for the residents of the region.

- (3) *Whether granting a franchise is likely to adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of Metro's residents in an unreasonable manner;*

Metro staff is not aware of any facility incidents or operating procedures that adversely affected the health, safety and welfare of Metro's residents in an unreasonable manner during the term of the current franchise. Staff finds it unlikely that the franchised operation will adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of Metro's residents due to the type of activity performed and the good compliance record of the operator. The facility is also regulated and monitored by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

- (4) *Whether granting a franchise is likely to adversely affect nearby residents, property owners, or the existing character or expected future development of the surrounding neighborhood in an unreasonable manner;*

GSS Transfer, LLC is an existing transfer station and began operations as an exempt solid waste reload facility in 1992. GSS became a Metro-franchised transfer station in 2016. Based on the operator's demonstrated experience and good compliance history, staff finds it unlikely that GSS' operations would cause unreasonable adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

- (5) *Whether the applicant has demonstrated the strong likelihood that it will comply with all requirement and standards of this chapter, the administrative rules and performance standards adopted pursuant to Chapter 5.08 and other applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations, ordinances, orders or permits pertaining in any manner to the proposed franchise.*

Metro has a long history with this facility and staff finds that the applicant is likely to comply with regulations and standards if the franchise is renewed.