

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the work session to order at 10:33 a.m.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, 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 Washington Park Train Task Force Update and COO Recommendation**

Presenter(s): Christine Lewis (she/her), Metro Councilor, District 2
Olivia Clark (she/her), Portland City Councilor, District 4
Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Recommendation from COO Marissa Madrigal](#)
[Attachment 2 - Washington Park Train Task Force Report](#)
[Attachment 3 - Appendices to the Task Force Report](#)
[Attachment 4 - Oregon Zoo Geotechnical Assessment Memo](#)
[Attachment 5 - Support Letter from Portland Mayor Keith Wilson](#)

Councilor Lewis shared the project background, from her budget note direction in 2025 through the conclusion of the task force process. Portland City Councilor Olivia Clark then spoke about the success of public-private partnerships, which could serve as a model for future work. Staff presented the findings from the Chief Operating Officer Recommendation.

Councilor Nolan asked staff to clarify for the record whether the task force discussed the timing of a financial feasibility study, in addition to the geotechnical study. Councilor Lewis

responded that the task force was able to consider capital improvements, but not operations. Councilor Clark expressed confidence in raising matching funds but agreed a feasibility study would be necessary.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the change from diesel to electric trains, and whether there are priorities for geotechnical next steps. Councilor Clark referred to testimony from technical experts, along with existing geotechnical work in need of updates. She also noted excitement for electrification of the zoo train.

Councilor Hwang asked about the financial impact of a long loop during Zoo Lights. Councilor Lewis reiterated that the long loop is primarily envisioned for spring and summer and would not interfere with Zoo Lights.

Councilor González expressed his support and appreciated the community partnership.

President Peterson thanked Councilor Clark and expressed her support for the project, emphasizing the role of philanthropy in public-private-philanthropic partnerships. Overall, the Council supported moving forward with the COO recommendation.

2.2 **Supportive Housing Services: Regional Policy and Oversight Committee Subcommittees Update**

Presenter(s): Liam Frost (he/him), Interim Housing Director
Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Division Director

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Staff presented an update on the process for developing subcommittees for the Regional Policy and Oversight

Committee, emphasizing the benefit of subcommittees for moving policies forward in the face of a limited ability to meet frequently, due to schedules.

Councilor Lewis asked whether the subcommittees would be representational and whether there would be an executive committee. Staff shared the intention that subcommittees focus on technical topics.

Councilor thought it would make the most sense to seat the committee and then ask what subcommittees would be most helpful. Staff confirmed they planned to take a Council recommendation to the committee.

President Peterson highlighted that the change in membership between the existing and new committees emphasizes lived experience and service providers. She asked that subcommittees give direct input on key performance indicators.

Councilor Nolan hoped the committee would consider expertise and feedback from members and others that propose options that are different from the current approaches. They questioned the need for detailed Council direction. Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren clarified that Council should provide direction for long-standing subcommittees, noting that short-term, specific subcommittees are not subject to the same Council oversight.

Councilor Rosenthal hoped the subcommittees would invite experts to testify, and Councilor Lewis offered holding both

priority and optional meetings for the full committee as an alternative to subcommittees.

3. Chief Operating Officer Communication

None

4. Councilor Communication

Councilors Lewis and Nolan provided an update on the state legislative session, including a strong day for battery extended producer responsibility legislation and support for speculative ticketing.

Councilor Simpson shared that the Black Employee Resource Group hosted a Black History Month event and thanked staff for their work.

Councilor Hwang shared the topics covered during the previous week's Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee.

Council supported a request from Councilor Lewis to support an application from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for a federal BUILD grant affecting their property in Oregon City.

5. Adjourn to Executive Session

President Peterson adjourned the work session into executive session at 11:23 a.m.



Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
February 9, 2026