

JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

March 20th, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shannon Singleton
Nafisa Fai
Paul Savas
Keith Wilson
Travis Stovall
Jef Dalin
Joe Buck
Rian Windsheimer
Sam Desue
Ali Mirzakhali
Carley Francis
Juan Carlos Gonzalez
Ashton Simpson
Christine Lewis

AFFILIATION

Multnomah County
Washington County
Clackamas County
City of Portland
Cities of Multnomah County
Cities of Washington County
Cities of Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation
TriMet
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Washington State Department of Transportation
Metro Council
Metro Council
Metro Council

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Curtis Robinhold
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Leann Caver

AFFILIATION

Port of Portland
City of Vancouver
C-Tran

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Angelita Morillo
Heidi Lueb
Brett Sherman
Chris Ford
Emerald Bogue
Devin Reck
Katherine Kelly
Scott Patterson

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
Cities of Washington County
Cities of Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
Washington State Department of Transportation
City of Vancouver
C-Tran

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

JPACT Chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
Chair Gonzalez called the roll and declared a quorum.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Metro staff Ramona Perrault read aloud the instructions for providing public testimony.

Happy Valley Councilor Brett Sherman testified in favor of the Sunrise Corridor project being funded through RFFA 1A.

Hillsboro Mayor Beach Pace testified in favor of full funding for TV Highway through RFFA 1A.

John Washington testified in favor of Rose Quarter project.

Bryson Davis testified.

Chris Smith testified against the Rose Quarter project.

Sprinavasa Turner testified in favor of the Rose Quarter project.

Jill Rundle testified in support of allocating RFFA funds to the Sunrise Corridor project.

Kelly James testified regarding concern about safety on Powell Blvd.

Gladstone Mayor Michael Milch testified in favor of the Sunrise Corridor project being funded through RFFA 1A and protecting Step 2.

Winta Yohannes testified in support of the I-5 Rose Quarter project.

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Metro staff Catherine Ciarlo provided an update on fatal traffic accidents in the region since the last JPACT meeting. Ally Holmqvist gave the Transit Minute report. JPACT Chair Gonzalez did not provide the Chair Updates during the meeting to save time for discussion.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gonzalez stated that there were two items on the Consent Agenda: 1. Resolution No. 25-5473 For the Purpose of Adding a New ODOT Public Transportation Awarded Project into the 2024-27 MTIP for TriMet Supporting Elderly and 2. Disabled Persons Transit Needs and Consideration of the February 20, 2025 JPACT Minutes.

MOTION: Mayor Travis Stovall moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Sam Desue.

ACTION: The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution No. 25-5463 For the Purpose of Amending Three Related I-5 Rose Quarter Projects to the 2024-27 MTIP to Add \$250 Million Dollars of Approved Funding to the Projects

Chair Gonzalez introduced the item.

Metro staff Jean Senachal-Biggs provided a brief presentation.
Commissioner Nafisa Fai moved to approve the resolution and Rian Windsheimer seconded the motion.

Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson introduced his amendment and made a motion to pass the resolution; Mayor Keith Wilson seconded the motion.

ODEQ Ali Mirzakhilili asked whether the resolution wording would be an “and” or an “or” if the funding is not made available.

Windsheimer said ODOT supports the amendment, as it reflects their intent.

Mayor Wilson appreciated this amendment and asked to tweak the language.

Chair Gonzalez asked for advice from the Metro Attorney.

Metro Attorney Michelle Bellia proposed a process of a new amendment to change the language of the original amendment under consideration.

Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas moved to amend the amendment to “and/or” and “action” to “approval”, C-Tran Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Patterson seconded the motion.

Windsheimer explained his preference for “action” over “approval”.

Mayor Wilson withdrew his concern.

Savas changed his amendment back to “action”, with “and/or”, Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chair Gonzalez returned to Simpson’s amendment as amended. All in favor.

Chair Gonzalez returned to the main motion.

Buck wanted clarity around construction that would be covered by the MTIP Amendment.

ODOT staff replied that it is for phase 1A construction.

Savas noted these are federal dollars and not restricted by state constitutional limits and added that this project will reduce diversion and make streets safer.

5.2 RFFA Step 1A: Scenario Packages Recommendation for Public Comment

Chair Gonzalez introduced the item and referred to the email sent on March 19th, as well as the memo responding to Mayor Buck.

Metro staff Grace Cho gave a presentation.

Chair Gonzalez called for a motion – TriMet Executive Director Sam Desue moved; Commissioner Fai seconded the motion.

Savas shared his own concern that tapping Step 2 would cause a Gladstone project to go from above the line to below the line. He shared that bonding should go toward projects across the region, not just a few big projects, and made a case for the importance of the Sunrise Corridor.

Chair Gonzalez asked staff for clarification.

Metro staff explained that the overall financial picture being discussed is subject to change; it is an estimate. Staff explained there are different ways to address the need for the additional dollars and shared possible options.

Savas expressed that this is convoluted and expressed support for what is in the packet.

Cho noted the Step 2 info in the packet and that the technical information is only one piece of the decision-making.

Chair Gonzalez noted the proposal is a reflection of the many partners around the table.

Metro Councilor Christine Lewis stated there has been a lot of work done and a need to be transparent; Step 1A is a commitment to funding that could be bonding, however it may not be the only or best tool. Councilor Lewis supported the package in the memo and protecting Step 2. Councilor Lewis advocated for a constituent who wanted to speak on the item at the meeting.

Chair Gonzalez announced he would allow testimony before a decision.

Commissioner Fai asked for clarity about the math and fully funding all the projects if the bond is expanded.

Ciarlo answered the math question and corrected the memo; it should have listed \$88.5 and includes the commitments for extra funds from partners. Ciarlo also explained why the proposed amount was raised.

Chair Gonzalez expounded on that proposal.

Ciarlo thanked partners for stepping up with additional funding.

Mayor Buck reiterated previous comments that he supports full funding for the “big three”. TPAC did not make a recommendation and asked for more information about Burnside Bridge and

Montgomery projects that hasn't been provided. Buck inquired about what happens if those projects don't materialize following a bond. Buck noted there are three projects with no doubt about their viability, while the other two have bigger question marks.

Multnomah County Commissioner Shannon Singleton wanted to stress that Burnside Bridge is not unique as it will require federal dollars like the other projects, and the bridge serves the entire region as an earthquake-ready bridge.

Cho answered Mayor Buck's questions. She proposed laying out a schedule for each project in IGAs as well as conditions laid out as part of the RFFA resolution for the timing of bonding.

Senechal-Biggs added that the project profiles and their funding stacks will be online next week.

Ciarlo explained how these projects meet the bonding criteria and the risk for each; if there are projects not living up to their proposals, Metro would reconsider bonding that money.

Windsheimer asked about off ramps and requested stating those clearly before final adoption. Windsheimer noted that RFFA dollars might go down in the future and ODOT money would come from Great Streets and safety projects, but this depends on costs coming down through TriMet's work on the project. He expressed that ODOT is committed to the project.

Cornelius Mayor Jef Dalin urged everyone to recognize that leveraging these funds depends on federal funds; once it is put out for public comment, it becomes real. Mayor Dalin emphasized being careful about explaining it and transparent about the risk of the financing stack. Mayor Dalin expressed appreciation for the Chair working toward regional equity.

Mayor Wilson advised interlinking different transit systems to each other so we can work on speed and consistency. Mayor Wilson emphasized the need to increase transit ridership and pursue federal funding for the Montgomery project.

Councilor Lewis' stated her top priority is Sunrise and next is Montgomery. Councilor Lewis added that the streetcar unlocks thousands of opportunities for more housing and expressed that the Montgomery project fulfils a commitment to the governor to incentivize more housing.

Singleton offered to walk folks through the Burnside Bridge project: a third of the funds come from local sources and this project is ready to move forward, however, it is taking the most significant cut and is currently as low as it can go.

Savas recommended expediting the ones that are ready to go since costs are rising.

Chair Gonzalez allowed public comment due to confusion about the agenda item.

Marchelle Paholsky, Member of the Sunrise Corridor Leadership Cohort, testified in favor of the Sunrise Corridor project.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Introduction to the Forthcoming Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill

Chair Gonzalez postponed Beth Osbourne's presentation and introduced Metro staff Betsy Emery to present on the reauthorization of the Transportation Surface Act and JPACT trip

7. MEMBER UPDATES

Windsheimer shared that if there are obligated funds through the Connecting Community Funds, as with the Rose Quarter freeway cap, those projects can move toward construction.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramona Perrault". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ramona Perrault,
Committee Legislative Advisor, Metro