

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE FY 2025-26 APPROVED BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

Date: April 21, 2025

Prepared by:
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Department: Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Presented by:
Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer
Brian Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer

Meeting date: May 22, 2025

Length: 60 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This meeting provides an opportunity for Council to discuss the FY 2025-26 Approved Budget in the context of the Council priorities, strategic framework, racial equity outcomes and climate action goals.

This is a Public Hearing and public testimony will be taken by interested members of the public and agency stakeholders. Information shared at this meeting will help to guide the development of the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget. The vote to adopt the budget is currently scheduled for June 12, 2025.

ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Council discussion and feedback on the FY 2025-26 Approved Budget.
- Council consideration of public testimony.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Development of the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget that aligns with Council priorities.

POLICY QUESTIONS

Specific factors for Council consideration *may* include:

- Does the Council require any further explanation, or can any actions be taken, to enhance the Council's understanding of the Approved Budget?
- After robust Council discussion and thoughtful consideration of public testimony, does the Council intend to amend the Approved Budget?
 - If applicable, are Council amendments to the Approved Budget within the 10% appropriation increase limit by fund?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Each department's budget has individual items that should achieve outcomes specifically addressed by Council through the strategic framework. Council can support the budget in whole or in part, and modify individual items or larger program requests.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer recommend that Council consider all public testimony and extensively discuss the FY 2025-26 Approved Budget, to ensure that the Adopted Budget aligns with Council priorities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Each department's FY 2025-26 base budget was developed following the Chief Financial Officer's budget instructions released in early December 2024. The base budgets allow departments to continue existing programs and projects as adjusted for various factors such as inflation, COLAs, etc.

New programs, projects, additional appropriations, and FTE are requested through the department's budget modification request process. These requests were reviewed and analyzed by the Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officers, Chief Financial Officer, and General Manager of Visitor Venues. Approved requests were built into the Proposed Budget, released on April 4, 2025, and presented by the Chief Operating Officer, in their capacity as the Budget Officer, on April 10, 2025, with their budget message.

The Council, acting as Budget Committee, deliberated on the Proposed Budget, provided opportunity for public testimony, and voted to approve the budget on May 1, 2025.

Legal Antecedent

The preparation, review and adoption of Metro's annual budget is subject to the requirements of Oregon Budget Law, ORS Chapter 294. The Chief Operating Officer, acting in their capacity as the designated Budget Officer, is required to present a balanced budget to Council, acting in their capacity as Metro's Budget Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Officer presented the Metro Council, acting in their capacity as the Budget Committee, the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget to fully deliberate and to provide guidance in the development of the FY 2025-26 Approved Budget. The Council will hold robust discussions, with multiple opportunities for public input, to develop the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget that aligns with their priorities.