

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, July 24, 2025

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free), www.youtube.com/live/CBVO4yiyhbM**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy President Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Present: 5 - Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Ashton Simpson, and Duncan Hwang

Excused: 2 - Council President Lynn Peterson, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Public Communication

None.

3. Presentations**3.1 Expo Future Project Quarterly Update**

Presenter(s): Craig Stroud, (he/him) General Manager Visitor Venues
Cindy Wallace, (she/her) Interim Executive Director, Oregon Convention Center and Expo Center
Dione Williams, (he/him) Director of Convention Sales, Travel Portland
Jenn Dooher, (she/her) Director of Sports Tourism, Sport Oregon Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Resolution 25-5450](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution 25-5451](#)

Staff reviewed the Expo Future project, including the impact of recent efforts to attract more sports events to the venue. They described upcoming project activities, such as continuing to analyze the sports-centric approach and developing criteria for a public-private partnership.

Jamie McCool, National Account Manager for Travel Portland, detailed recent sports bookings and prospects, and she described the outreach process. Jenn Dooher, Director of Sports Tourism for Sport Oregon, described

competitive challenges facing Expo Center, including modernized facilities and scheduling conflicts. She noted that Portland is an attractive destination for many national sports groups.

Staff clarified for Councilor Lewis that the process providing legacy Expo users with scheduling preference was drafted to span a three-year period. Staff also confirmed for Councilor Lewis that the anticipated completion date for the flooring project is the end of the current fiscal year.

Per questions from Councilor Rosenthal, staff confirmed that the project will report significant information to Council every six months. They also explained that scheduling would depend on final decisions about facility equipment which dictate turnover time, which will in turn dictate maximum utilization. They clarified that cultural and historic events and memorialization could co-exist with other uses.

Councilor Hwang asked whether existing budgets planned for new revenue, and staff noted the new revenues are part of the existing budget to stabilize Expo, and that a new staffing plan for Expo and Oregon Convention Center will support this stabilization.

Councilor Lewis expressed a desire to attract shows and events that reflect the region's values. Presenters reiterated that many potential clients around the nation are drawn to Portland's values and that the process of site selection is a cooperative one.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Resolution No. 25-5515 For the Purpose of Adopting the Parks and Nature

Real Estate Manual for the Implementation of the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5515](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution 25-5515](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Table of Real Estate Manual updates and impacts](#)

4.2 Consideration of the July 10, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [July 10, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

4.3 Consideration of the July 17, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [July 17, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Lewis, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolutions

5.1 **Resolution No. 25-5503** For the Purpose of Amending or Adding Three I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement Projects to the 2024-27 MTIP to Meet Federal Project Delivery Requirements

Presenter(s): Ted Leybold, Transportation Policy Director

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5503](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5503](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Modified Locally Preferred Alternative](#)
[Attachment 2 - OTC May 8 2025 IBR Update Item](#)
[Attachment 3 - IBR Performance Assessment Evaluation](#)
[Attachment 4 - Potential Construction Phase Packages](#)
[Attachment 5 - Pre-Completion Tolling Signage Map](#)
[Attachment 6 - Public Comment Period Summary](#)

Staff reviewed the three amendments considered in the proposed resolution and provided an overview of the timeline.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if tolling signage would

denote costs. Ray Mabey, Assistant Program Administrator for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, said the project aimed to included cost, and that costs would also be posted online.

Councilor Hwang highlighted the uncertainty of a low-income toll program and asked how value engineering in the future could affect current project goals. Greg Johnson, Program Administrator for the Interstate Bridge Replacement, explained that the Purpose and Need statements are retained regardless of value engineering.

Councilor Lewis drew attention to Oregon's pause on tolling programs and asked who would ensure low-income tolling programs are implemented in the future. The IBR team confirmed that Washington Department of Transportation will implement tolling, although Councilor Lewis expressed continued concern about implementation of low-income discounts. Deputy President Simpson also pressed for more information about plans to communicate about tolling.

Councilor Nolan asked what proportion of recent major projects were delivered on-time and under budget, specifically defining the budget at the estimated cost at the time of approval of the locally preferred alternative. The IBR team offered to follow-up with those statistics. In response to a question from Councilor Nolan about process for changes to the project in the future, the IBR team shared that the Executive Steering Committee would make those changes.

President Peterson joined the meeting remotely for a

portion of the agenda item. The Council then heard public comment on the resolution.

Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnergy-Ogle expressed support for the resolution and emphasized the importance of beginning to make progress immediately.

Jim Sjulín, representing 40 Mile Loop, advocated for active transportation alongside light rail, and he spoke to the size and cost of the pedestrian bridge.

Chris Smith, representing Just Crossing Alliance, shared strong support for the first amendment in the package but expressed concern that a low-income tolling program may not be implemented before tolls are levied. He also raised concerns about accountability and project oversight.

Ron Richardson, resident, spoke in favor of the resolution for improving access to jobs, health care and more. He shared his experience regularly biking across the current bridge and advocated for safety improvements.

Ron Arp, President of Identity Clark County, highlighted freight shipped both by truck and cargo ship across or under the bridge and urged swift action.

Elizabeth Mazzarra Myers, Executive Director of Westside Economic Alliance, supported the resolution and called for investments to stabilize the economy, including increased freight, improve transportation for residents and more.

Minna Long, representing Washington State Building

Trades Council, supported the resolution and described the regional needs of trades workers and advocated for a Project Labor Agreement.

Ed Washington, representing the Citizens Advisory Group, supported the resolution and noted extensive community participation throughout project development.

Lorne Bulling, representing Ironworkers 29, supported the project and highlighted opportunities to support the existing trades workers in the region and expand those programs.

Councilor Rosenthal added his thanks to staff, administrators, and community members for their work to improve the safety of the bridge, although he advocated for an investment grade analysis.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Simpson, and Hwang

Nay: 1 - Councilor Nolan

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Gonzalez

6. Ordinances (First Reading and Public Hearing)

- 6.1 **Ordinance No. 25-1534**, For the Purpose of Repealing Metro Code Section 2.19.240 (Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee) and Replacing it with a New, Updated Metro Code Section 2.19.240 (Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee)

Presenter(s): Heidi Rahn (she/her), Oregon Zoo Director
Beth Redmond-Jones (she/her), Oregon Zoo Program Director

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 25-1534](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Staff provided an overview of the 2024 Oregon Zoo Bond Measure's requirement to seat an oversight committee and gave a summary of previous bond oversight. Staff described the characteristics of the committee members detailed in the proposed code change as well as the committee's charge.

Staff confirmed for Councilor Lewis that the represented expertise on the committee is modified from the previous committee, and now includes seats representing accessibility and informal learning.

Councilor Hwang asked if K-12 education representation could be considered in addition to higher learning.

6.1.1 Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 25-1534

None.

7. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal shared that Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from across Oregon met at the Oregon Zoo, and that the group discussed impacts of new regulations.

8. Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis described a policymaking workshop with a delegation from Kazakhstan and reported that the Washington Park Train committee has developed its final recommendations.

Councilor Hwang reported that the Committee on Racial Equity was joined by new members who discussed

Future Vision, and that members at MPAC shared their thoughts on flexibility for implementing housing production strategies. He also noted that the Environmental Protection Agency joined an event about Metro's cooling corridors project.

9. Adjourn

There being no other business, Deputy President Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor