

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

10:00 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber;
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=dzjF7C61O-A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzjF7C61O-A)

Council work session

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Council President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: 5 - Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

Excused: 1 - Councilor Christine Lewis

2. Work Session Topics:**2.1 Metro Employee Engagement Survey: 2025 Findings and Next Steps**

Presenter(s): Holly Calhoun (she/her), Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - 2025 Employee Engagement Survey Findings](#)

Staff presented the survey design and topics covered, including diversity, equity and inclusion and workplace safety. Staff also presented key findings, which were shared with employees at a recent town hall, and future actions based on the findings.

Acting Council President Hwang discussed culture change with staff and Chief Operating Officer Madrigal. COO Madrigal and staff expressed interest in finding new ways for employees to express ideas, share feedback, and see the impact of their input. Acting Council President Hwang also asked about engagement with employee resource groups (ERGs), and staff noted a new standard operating procedure for ERGs includes information about planning committees, leadership roles within committees, and support for employee participation.

Councilor Rosenthal identified staff, serving as subject matter experts, must implement Council actions. COO Madrigal described possible improvements to strengthen technical briefings despite

tight Council calendars.

Councilor Simpson acknowledged the extra workloads some staff carry, such as Native and Indigenous engagement, despite Metro not having a Native or Indigenous ERG. Staff reiterated that a process now exists to start a new ERG so that all employees can feel represented, and that funding exists for events and community building.

3. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal announced a comment period for the proposed Cascade Renewable Transmission Line project. She asked Council whether it supported Metro in sending a letter that the project team consider and answer questions about potential negative impacts to wildlife habitat and respond to concerns posed by Tribal governments. Councilor Nolan strongly supported the letter and the rest of the Council agreed.

4. Councilor Communication

Acting Council President Hwang acknowledged the passing of Cayle Tern, APANO’s Civic Engagement Manager. He emphasized Cayle’s work supporting the Laotian community in the face of federal immigration enforcement.

Councilor Rosenthal shared he visited the Tualatin Food Pantry, where volunteers demonstrated how Metro’s past support had improved operations.

Councilor González noted that he attended the City of Cornelius Causeway Bridge ribbon cutting over a Tualatin River wetland, with investments supported by Metro’s local share funds.

5. Adjourn

Acting Council President Hwang adjourned the work session at

10:50 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Buzzini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor

May 18, 2026