

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 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/watch?v=w1r14jNB30g**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. President Peterson opened the session by acknowledging the passing of Representative Hoa Nguyen. Councilors Hwang and Simpson shared condolences, and Councilor Hwang asked that Metro consider directing funds from its sponsorship program to the David Douglas Educational Foundation in her memory.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Public Communication

None.

3. Presentations

3.1 Accountability Hotline Case 495: Prioritize Ethical Requirements to Set the Reuse Program Up for Success

Presenter(s): Brian Evans (he/him), Metro Auditor

Attachments: [Accountability Hotline Case 495 Audit](#)
[Accountability Hotline Case 495 Audit Highlights](#)

Auditor Evans described the nature of the audit and its findings, which arose from a complaint submitted to the accountability hotline operated by the Office of the Metro Auditor. Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal responded on behalf of management. To improve accountability, she noted that the employee reuse segment of the program was removed from standard operating procedures. She also noted that the audit prompted a broader review of policies across Waste Prevention and Environmental Services.

Councilor Hwang asked what restrictions exist for items distributed through the reuse program to community based

organizations. Auditor Evans noted that the scope of the audit was limited to the employee reuse program, although electronic waste should be recycled directly through the appropriate contractor and not routed to the reuse program. Dr. Marta McGuire, Director of Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES), expressed a desire to strengthen outreach with organizations and increase opportunities for people to access the program.

In response to a question about timing from Councilor Lewis, Auditor Evans confirmed that the initial timeline was appropriate but concerns about misconduct arose based on the report itself. COO Madrigal emphasized that the management investigation process endeavors to ensure clarity and fairness to employees before making determinations.

Dr. McGuire clarified for Councilor Rosenthal that electronic waste, as part of a statewide stewardship program, is not to be collected as part of the reuse program and that WPES would implement recommendations to better define different types of materials.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed concern about the amount of reuse materials that employees had taken from the reuse program. Auditor Evans confirmed that the figures in the audit are based on one year of data; Dr. McGuire agreed it was likely an accurate average.

President Peterson asked that management provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations in six months.

4. Resolutions

- 4.1 **Resolution No. 25-5539** For the Purpose of Providing Up to \$10,000,000 to Washington County to Support Investment in Programs to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

Presenter(s): Jes Larson (she/her), Assistant Director, Washington County Department of Housing Services
Liam Frost (he/him), Interim Housing Director, Metro

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5539](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Washington County Board Recommendation](#)
[Attachment 2 - Washington County Capital Projects Report](#)

Washington County staff described the investments in Washington County's homeless services programs over the life of the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure, summarized direction from the Washington County Board of Commissioners as to prioritizing any one-time funds and provided details about unanticipated funding shortfalls.

County staff clarified for Councilor Hwang that the County follows Metro's guidance for use of SHS funds for capital projects, and that all proposed capital projects are consistent with those requirements.

County staff confirmed for Councilor Lewis that all residents who receive eviction notices and are facing homelessness are eligible to receive eviction prevention services, and that the County is striving to integrate eviction prevention within their existing programs as state funding decreases.

Councilor Nolan noted that the proposed uses of funding would not fill gaps unique to Washington County. Councilor Nolan also expressed concern that backfilling existing programs was a deviation from the purpose of one-time funding. Metro's Interim Housing Director, Liam Frost, noted that each County has, or is expected to, submit a request for one-time funds to direct toward their highest funding priorities. County staff noted that eviction prevention funds are more flexible than costs like operating

shelter beds, and that state resources decreased suddenly.

Councilor Nolan whether expenditures have matched the "75/25 split" of SHS funds dedicated to each Population and Population B, as defined as a percentage in the measure. County staff pointed to an estimated 65/35 split between groups, and noted that over the life of the measure, maintaining the defined 75/25 split would require ramping down interventions like rent assistance and eviction prevention.

Councilor Rosenthal argued that the 75/25 split is a policy direction that does not require strict construction when allocating funds most effectively across the region. County staff clarified for him that the capital projects proposed include two access centers and two transitional housing projects facing cost escalation. Metro staff clarified that after Washington County's request and an anticipated request from Clackamas County, Metro would retain approximately \$3 to \$5 million for carry-over within the fund.

Metro Chief of Staff, Kristin Dennis, said per a question from Councilor Gonzalez that the intent in the ordinance authorizing use of one-time funds was to target one-time investments, but that over time, matching those funds to emergent needs narrowed the counties' options for uses. Councilor Hwang noted that investments should take into account the changes in need over time.

President Peterson asked Chief Operating Officer Madrigal to schedule a work session regarding the 75/25 split in the future. She also emphasized the importance of continuing to develop key performance metrics for the second five-year span of the measure.

During discussion on the motion to approve the resolution, Nolan reiterated concern about allocating funds between Populations A

and B, but they also expressed support for the motion and for continued discussions.

Councilors Gonzalez and Rosenthal expressed more confidence in the population split as a policy statement.

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

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

5. Other Business

5.1 Supportive Housing Services Reform Update: Current State

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

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Staff provided Council with an overview of Metro's existing Supportive Housing Services (SHS) program, in anticipation of future consideration of proposed program changes. Staff highlighted program success, reviewed engagement with local jurisdictions and community groups over the past two years, and described a work plan to develop proposed program improvements.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed concern about cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Staff agreed such cuts could deeply impact residents at risk of homelessness. Similarly, Councilor Gonzalez noted his frustration with federal policies that have negatively affected low-income and other residents.

Councilor Hwang highlighted links between SHS, affordable

housing and housing production. Staff agreed that the synergy between programs has an additive effect in the community and that Metro's lessons learned can be applied to future initiatives. Councilor Hwang urged the Council to discuss those possibilities in the immediate future.

Councilor Lewis spoke to increased reliance on philanthropy as public dollars are reduced. She advocated for a regional structure that plans for all future incoming dollars, regardless of sector or source.

President Peterson closed discussion by recognizing the effort required to regionalize the SHS system and the continued need to work together to fill gaps in the system.

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal announced upcoming protests on or near Metro property.

President Peterson thanked Councilors for participating in a communications campaign to keep the protest over the previous weekend safe.

7. Councilor Communication

President Peterson thanked Councilors for participating in a communications campaign to keep the protest over the previous weekend safe.

Councilor Rosenthal acknowledged Rep. Nguyen's public service and noted her role as part of an historic group of Vietnamese lawmakers in the Oregon Legislature, the largest ever nationally.

8. Adjourn

President Peterson adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

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

Anne Buzzini
Council Legislative Advisor
October 28, 2025