

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
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oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, July 2, 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=wLFIJSOwU7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLFIJSOwU7g)**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President González called the Council meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present: 6 - Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Council President Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Public Communication

Sharon Nasset, resident, referred to an alternative design for the Rose Quarter transportation project, which she submitted to Council as written materials. She expressed concern about future benefits and impacts of the existing design.

3. Presentations**3.1 Update on Proximity and Experience to Parks and Nature**

Presenter(s): Jon Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Director
Beth Cohen (she/her), Strategic Funding Program Manager

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Presenters reviewed past Council requests for more information about residents' proximity to and experiences with Metro parks and natural areas. They shared key feedback from Councilors about the definition of "access," including a desire to take a broad view that prioritizes maximizing public benefits and community engagement. They proposed a broad definition of community and climate resilience to combine proximity and experience with community empowerment and economic vitality.

Councilor Lewis asked staff to provide or develop maps of destinations and accessibility features. Staff referred to existing materials online and committed to maintaining strong communications. Councilor Lewis also raised her interest in investing in the Willamette River Trail, and staff noted the funding is available to acquire gaps in the trail network.

Staff clarified for President González that a timeline for next steps is iterative and that some features are constantly monitored.

4. Resolutions

4.1 Resolution No. 26-5587 For the Purpose of Adopting the 2027-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program For the Portland Metropolitan Area

Presenter(s): Gabriela Lopez, Senior Transportation Planner
Blake Perez, Associate Transportation Planner

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5587](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix I\)](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix II\)](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix III\)](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix IV\)](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix V\)](#)
[Exhibit B \(Appendix VI\)](#)
[Exhibit C](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Staff presented the purpose of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) and its function and the process for developing and compiling the project and program list.

Presenters clarified for Councilor Hwang to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the more effective tool for setting regional policy, while the MTIP programs projects and programs that have been measured against goals of the RTP.

Councilor Lewis noted that the MTIP is especially important work because it helps unify jurisdictions as they grapple with complicated planning across boundaries. She referred to a new capital improvement project list developed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and urged caution, lest jurisdictions begin to confuse the MTIP with ODOT's list.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by

Councilor Simpson, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Council President Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

5. Ordinances (Second Reading)

5.1 Ordinance No. 26-1547 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Section 2.19.280 to Add One Member to the Supportive Housing Services Regional Policy and Oversight Committee

Presenter(s): Liam Frost (he/him), Housing Director

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 26-1547](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Council provided its unanimous consent to accept additional public comment on the ordinance.

Oscar Arana advocated for passage of the ordinance and emphasized the important of including culturally specific voices on the committee.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Council President Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

6.1 MERC Update (Craig Stroud, General Manager of Visitor Venues)

The scheduled agenda item for a Regional Waste Advisory Committee update was postponed. Instead, Craig Stroud, General Manager of Visitor Venues, provided an update on the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC).

General Manager Stroud announced a new booking policy at

MERC venues and an employee relations update. He explained that unlike the AFSCME contract that Metro Council ratifies, MERC maintains some legacy community benefits agreements from its independent era and ratifies those agreements unilaterally. He also described the impacts of the Rose Quarter closure on clients, exhibitors and staff.

President González also touched on economic data and tourism data presented at the Visitor Development Fund. He expressed concern about the speed of progress for the Portland's Centers for the Arts transition of management with the City of Portland. He hoped the City Councilors were aware of the complexity of work of managing the venues.

7. Councilor Communication

No Councilor communications.

8. Adjourn

President González adjourned the Council meeting at 11:18 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
July 21, 2026