

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:00 AM

This Council Meeting will adjourn to a Work Session

**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=tuAim2-en4>**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President González called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren introduced Metro's summer law clerks to Council.

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

No public comment.

3. Resolutions

3.1 Resolution No. 26-5599 For the Purpose of Amending or Adding Four I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement Projects to the 2024-27 MTIP to Meet Federal Project Delivery Requirements

Presenter(s): Gabriela Lopez, Senior Transportation Planner
Kelly Betteridge, Investment Areas Manager
Carley Francis, Interim Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5599](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - IBR Program MPA Staff Memo](#)
[Attachment 2 - IBR Program Modified Locally Preferred Alternative](#)
[Attachment 3 - IBR Program Maps](#)
[Attachment 4 - IBR Program Pre-Completion Tolling Map](#)

Carley Francis, Interim Program Administrator for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, shared the first of two presentations. She reviewed the history of the program, spanning 25 years, and she specified that the action before Council would support funding for construction. She details the core projects and what would be constructed with the funding.

Metro staff then presented a detailed look at the amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan that would fund the project, described the Major Project Assessment process and reviewed the comments received during the public comment period.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed support for the project but cited some concerns, including channel configuration and preconstruction tolling.

Councilor Lewis appreciated consideration of removal of the bridge and the robust public comment period. She asked staff to affirm or clarify Metro's past role in the project. Staff expressed great confidence in the IBR program leadership.

Deputy President Hwang supported the project and openly opposed actions that would jeopardized expiring federal funding. Per his remarks, staff clarified \$500 million would be at risk

Councilor Simpson requested additional information about pedestrian and cycling access and workforce requirements in the project. Presenters spoke to approval from other commissions in spring, connections to the Vancouver waterfront and the 40-mile loop, and the vast amount of work for small businesses the project would provide.

President González shared his pride in the project as practical and properly phased.

3.1.1 Public Comment on Resolution No. 26-5599

Chris Smith, Just Crossing Alliance, expressed concerns about the scope of the first phase of the project and future governance and advocated for more transit projects to attract more transit

funding.

Robin Richardson, Senior Vice President of Moda Health and Community Advisory Group member, described the project as a generational economic investment and emphasized that it already meets criteria to funds already allocated and matching federal funds.

Berk Nelson, Senior Policy Manager for NAMC, strongly supported the resolution and cited the 10- to 20-year timeframe for the project as a major benefit to working families.

Don Odermott, Washington County Chamber of Commerce thanked ODOT for speaking to businesses throughout the process and highlighted that it is an improvement for all modes of transportation.

Louis DeSitter, Ironworkers Local 29, supported the amendment and argued that workers in the region are in no position to say no to a project with so many economic benefits.

TJ McHugh, Portland Metro Chamber, strongly supported the project for the many economic benefits it would bring, and he escribed it as overdue.

Jana Jarvis, Oregon Trucking Association and Community Advisory Group member, support the resolution for the bridge's role in facilitating interstate commerce on the west coast.

Khanh Tran, Identity Clark County, said the resolution would support long-term transportation needs and economic growth.

Randall Friesen, Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke to the project's ability to employ today's middle-school students in family-wage jobs during construction

and to bolster the middle class.

Following public comment, Councilor González asked Administrator Francis to elaborate on the phasing of light rail across the bridge. She reiterated that the bridge would include space for light rail, even as future phases would supply funding for construction, thus preserving the option. She noted the project overall remains firmly in favor of multimodal approaches.

Councilor Nolan joined the Council meeting at 11:08 a.m., prior to the vote on the resolution.

Councilor Rosenthal regretted that project phasing hadn't been considered earlier in the process. Presenters noted for Deputy President Hwang that many community benefits are already built into the procurement process.

Councilor Nolan expressed disappointment with the project design and hoped for a lower-cost project that better met the needs of historically Black communities.

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

Aye: 5 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Rosenthal, Council President Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

Nay: 1 - Councilor Nolan

4. Other Business

4.1 Interstate Bridge Replacement Program: Draft Letter

Attachments: [Draft Letter](#)

Councilor Simpson reiterated his support for the project and introduced a draft letter to his colleagues to emphasize key Metro values and expected outcomes of the project. Councilor Nolan offered possible support, pending certain changes, in light of their own vote against the project.

The Council engaged in a conversation about process for shared positions when sending letters, including how to capture dissenting viewpoints. Staff noted that the letter could help them represent Metro's priorities in future engagements. Overall, the Council supported the letter but agreed it should be signed by President González in his own capacity.

5. Adjourn to Work Session

President González adjourned the Council meeting at 11:45 a.m. and convened a work session.

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

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
July 3, 2026