

Metro

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



Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2025

10:30 AM

This work session will immediately follow the Council meeting.

**Start times for agenda items are estimates.
Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,**

**<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free),**

**[https://www.youtube.com/live/KLGn5Xr93Mk?
si=Bc_rOFS5MkPgg4TT](https://www.youtube.com/live/KLGn5Xr93Mk?si=Bc_rOFS5MkPgg4TT)**

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Work Session to order at 10:50 a.m.

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

10:30 Work Session Topics:**10:30 Federal Legislative Affairs Agenda**

Betsy Emery presented the draft agenda, which consists of legislative values and principles and specific legislative priorities. She also reviewed 2024 election results and congressional priorities.

Councilor Rosenthal asked that the agenda support local governments and monitor impacts to voting rights; Councilor Lewis asked to ensure adequate resources for the Army Corps of Engineers to support the Willamette Falls Locks.

Deputy President Simpson and Councilor Hwang both asked about the flexibility of the agenda and the advocacy team's responsiveness to a rapidly changing political environment. Staff identified increased collaboration with contract lobbyists in D.C., more frequent regional coordination meetings, a work group with Metro directors and Council, and tracking case law and executive orders through Office of Metro Attorney. COO Madrigal added that Metro immediately assesses new regulations and laws affecting the agency to ensure compliance.

Staff offered to research and respond to Councilor Rosenthal's request for more information about FEMA funding.

Councilor Nolan asked what external communications Metro shares about impacts of federal policy. COO Madrigal responded that internal communications have been the priority but agreed to discuss more robust communications.

11:00 President's Work Group on Future Supportive Housing Services Investments: Discussion

Deputy Council President Simpson summarized the April 7 Work Group meeting, which asked participants to define a shared mission and vision statement. He said the group identified key themes of collaboration, transparency, regional alignment, and equitable access to services region wide.

Councilor Lewis reported that the group felt it should define the vision to guide development of key performance indicators (KPIs), rather than identifying the KPIs themselves. She said the Work Group would need additional time to talk about the scope of an independent audit.

President Peterson reflected that before the Work Group convened, regional partners did have shared definitions for populations and services. Through this process, she noted that partners were identifying shared goals. She cited a holistic approach that creates an individualized plan for each resident served as a goal of her own.

Councilor Hwang expressed concern about the pace of a process to conduct an independent audit, followed by development of KPIs.

Deputy President Simpson and Councilor Lewis described a homework assignment for the Work Group members, to consider which indicators are currently in use and what should be changed to align priorities.

President Peterson reiterated the meaningful participation

of the Work Group participants, and Councilor Hwang reiterated his concerns about urgency.

Councilor Gonzalez also expressed concern about urgency and asked how existing processes and resources could be leveraged tactically. President Peterson responded an initial transfer of funds from the Regional Investment Fund to Multnomah County for a one-time investment is underway.

Interim Housing Director, Liam Frost, noted that the Tri-County Planning Body's plans include implementation strategies for six on-going goals, with additional goals welcome.

Councilor Nolan asked about reforms or results prior to voters' consideration, aside from changes in governance. President Peterson emphasized the Work Group's effort to create a shared mission and vision before promising specific outcomes; Councilor Nolan expressed concern about referring a measure to voters without meaningful reforms underway.

11:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal updated Council on the 2025 City Nature Challenge.

11:35 Councilor Communication

Deputy President Simpson reported his trip to the Austin Housing Conference.

Councilor Hwang shared that Multnomah County endorsed the 82nd Ave locally preferred alternative.

Councilor Gonzalez updated Council on the rest of the morning's JPACT meeting, including the public comment period for the Regional Flexible Funding Allocation bonding proposal.

11:40 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the work session at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor