

Expo Future MERC Update

December 3, 2025



Phase 3 major activities, as resolved by MERC and Metro Council

Representation & memorialization of histories and cultures at the site	Sports pivot and redevelopment
<p>H1. Metro Council recognizes Portland Assembly Center as site of national historic significance - completed</p> <p>H2a. Assess feasibility of HSMC's recommendations - underway</p> <p>H2b. Develop implementation strategy for feasible HSMC recommendations</p> <p>H3. Conduct a cultural resources assessment - completed</p> <p>H4. Conduct engineering study of Hall A's integrity, reuse capacity - underway</p> <p>H5. Discuss engineering findings with community and develop recommendations for future use of Hall A</p> <p>H6. Develop interpretive plan for the HSMC recommendations</p> <p>H7. Develop governance and engagement for development of interpretive plan - underway</p>	<p>S1. Continue analysis and refinement of preferred sports scenario - underway</p> <p>S2. Propose interim investment in sports equipment for Halls D & E - underway</p> <p>S3. Develop and present criteria for solicitation of public-private partnership by June 30, 2025 - communicated</p> <p>S4. Ensure that the pursuit of sports uses at Expo supports R & M recommendations and does not commodify or harm involved partners and communities - underway</p> <p>S5. Make every effort to pursue sports events at Expo - underway</p>

Work completed in this reporting period

Representation & memorialization activities	Sports pivot and redevelopment activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H2a. Four Metro staff with expertise in enterprise operations; non-profit partnership; diversity, equity, and inclusion; legal; and other areas have been identified to complete an initial feasibility assessment of the recommendations from the <i>Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee Recommendations Report</i>. Once this initial assessment is completed, impacted communities will be engaged through the governance structure that is under development, see paragraph H7 below.• H4. Akana engineering is nearing completion of a geotechnical assessment of Hall A's foundation and underlying soil composition. A cone penetration test was advanced to a depth of 120 feet in Hall A to assess soil properties and obtain shear-wave velocity measurements. Depending upon results of this phase, next phase will be initiated to perform structural and seismic condition assessments and a feasibility report.• H7. Metro contracted with Kearns & West, a collaboration and strategic communications firm, to support Metro in developing a governance structure to guide the creation of an interpretive plan for historical representation and memorialization. This includes ensuring community involvement is meaningful and appropriately scaled to technical, cultural, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2. Metro Council approved a \$2 million initial interim investment in infrastructure and sports equipment/amenities in Halls D & E in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget. A project team consisting of OCC+Expo staff, Sport Oregon, Travel Portland, and a legacy client representing sports tournaments has been formed to support project decision-making. Scott Edwards Architecture (SEA) was selected to provide design services. Equipment and lay-out requirements have been provided to SEA and the design team is developing options for review.• S5. OCC+Expo has partnered with Sport Oregon and Travel Portland's sales teams to connect with sports tournaments and event producers at tradeshow and through direct outreach. Additionally, the OCC+Expo management team is reviewing Expo's booking policy guidelines, updating rental and service pricing, and refreshing marketing materials.

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financial considerations. The intent is for Kearns & West to continue developing an overall engagement plan and communications approach as the governance structure is finalized. Project work is progressing internally with outreach to the community after the new year.

- The Expo Future project team has met several times with Metro's Government Affairs and Policy Development (GAPD) team in the past six months to structure an approach to Tribal consultation for the project. A newly hired employee in GAPD is expected to support those actions.
- Metro successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program, Washington Department of Transportation, and Oregon Department of Transportation for the potential siting of a Light Rail Transit Overnight Facility at Expo. The MOU identifies Expo Future project future conditions as well as overnight facility potential developments and defines how the parties will coordinate to support positive outcomes for both efforts. The possible location is south of the main Expo campus in an overflow gravel parking and storage lot. Impacts to the Expo Future vision are minor and manageable.

Key work planned for the next quarter

- H2a. Complete initial feasibility assessment of the recommendations from the *Expo Future Historical Significance & Memorialization Committee Recommendations Report*.
- H4. Communicate the Hall A foundation and soil findings, move to next phases of engineering assessment.
- H7. Substantially or fully complete the development of a governance structure to support interpretive plan creation, Hall A engineering findings, and feasibility of the HSMC report recommendations.
- S2. Review infrastructure and sports equipment recommendations and pricing estimates for the Halls D & E equipment investments from the architect team. Present and recommend investments to Metro Council and MERC at the joint meeting on February 10, 2026.
- S3. Summarize private developer; expert construction and architect firm; and key stakeholder feedback into a revised approach to achieve the Expo Future project vision. Present to Metro Council and MERC for direction on future development actions.
- Finalize project website sections to reflect phase 2 completion and current activities.