

ONE-YEAR UPDATE ON METRO FILM & TV ACCESS RESOLUTION NO. 25-5475

Date: 2/2/2026
Department: Council Office/COO
Meeting Date: 2/17/2026

Presenter(s): Andrew Scott, Deputy Chief
Operations Officer
Length: 45 minutes

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ISSUE STATEMENT

In March 2025, Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 25-5475, For the Purpose of Increasing Access to Metro Properties and Supporting the Film and Television Industry in the Greater Portland Region, sponsored by Councilors Christine Lewis and Duncan Hwang.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Andrew Scott will report back on the progress made in the last year to achieve the goals of the resolution.

Resolution No. 25-5475 aimed to increase access to Metro parks, natural areas and properties by improving the process for securing special use permits. Its goal was to increase predictability of permitting, reduce response times and improve communications with applicants, and create stronger frameworks to balance filming opportunities while maintaining habitat. It was a stated goal to increase access to directly support local film and television industry partners by providing more reliability when selecting filming locations, which will in turn generate more economic activity in the region, support local businesses like restaurants and retailers, help workers retain family-wage jobs, and support the arts and culture economy.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro Council lends further guidance and directive for how COO staff should balance enhancing film opportunities and protecting habitat, including how to better assess impacts on natural areas and economic benefits of allowing a permit.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Through conversation and response to COO team's presentation, be able to provide requisite directions to Special Permitting Staff to achieve desired policy changes.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Do the improvements to the special use permitting program meet Council's expectations for Resolution No. 25-5475, to balance increased access to parks, natural areas and other Metro properties while continuing to protect habitat and other natural resources?

- Does Council wish to see additional changes or streamlining to special use permitting to support the region’s film, television, and video industry?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The film, television, and video industry has long enjoyed filming at Metro’s parks, natural areas, and other properties. Due to the constraints of filming schedules, expedient and decisive decisions for granting special use permits have a significant impact on filming locations and, potentially, the costs incurred from any delays.

Improvements to permit turnaround reduce production costs, provide reliability to industry workers, and support economic benefits in the region.

BACKGROUND

As the steward of over 19,000 acres of parks and natural areas in the region, as well as the owner and operator of additional properties and venues, Metro provides access for special events like filming through special use permits. Metro’s special use permits program provides applicants with the ability to access certain properties under specific circumstances.

Oregon’s pristine natural areas, its vibrant and unique culture and the talents of local artists make it an attractive location for local and national film, television, and video projects. Through the years, the industry has not only filmed many beloved movies and television series in greater Portland but has supported tens of thousands of workers in jobs that pay family wages and provide much-needed benefits, such as health insurance. The industry generates economic activity in the greater Portland region that supports local restaurants, shops and other businesses, and the industry draws visitors to the region by sparking excitement about the region's cities and natural wonders.

On March 27, 2025, Metro Council passed resolution No. 25-5475, directing staff to:

1. Streamline special use permit applications across Metro.
2. Increase predictability with applicants and proactively provide alternatives when possible.
3. Create processes that enhance filming opportunities while maintaining habitat protection.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 25-5475 and Staff Report
2. Oregon Media and Production Association Video re: Resolution No. 25-5475 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3LxGlqQlq0>)