

WASTE PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: COUNCIL PRIORITIES DISCUSSION AND THE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SYSTEM FACILITIES PLAN

Date: October 23, 2023

Department: Waste Prevention and
Environmental Services

Meeting Date: November 9, 2023

Prepared by: Estee Segal,
estee.segal@oregonmetro.gov

Presenters: Marta McGuire, Director;
Estee Segal, Principal Planner; Luis
Sandoval, Principal Planner;
Lyndsey Lopez, Waste Planning and
Strategy Lead, Jacobs

Length: 40 mins

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro is in the process of developing the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan that is assessing the region's existing garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure, identifying service gaps, and presenting potential approaches and a plan for future system investments. This session will review and explain the four scenarios that outline different ways Metro could choose to invest in facilities and infrastructure to reduce waste and address challenges at existing Metro facilities, as part of plan development. These four scenarios were shared and discussed with more than 120 stakeholders at the Reuse, Recycling and Garbage System Symposium on September 27, 2023. At this work session, staff will review the details and evaluation of the scenarios as presented at the Symposium and in the attached [Discussion Guide](#), address Council questions, and seek early input on preferred scenario elements as a next step in project.

ACTION REQUESTED

This is an informational session intended to review alternative facility investment scenarios with Metro Councilors, answer questions and seek early input on preferred scenario elements.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The purpose of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan is to provide an essential long-range infrastructure and investment plan needed to fulfill goals and actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, including actions to improve access to reuse, recycling and garbage services under Goal 16: Maintain a system of facilities, from smaller recycling drop-off depots to larger full-service stations, to ensure equitable distribution of and access to services and advance progress toward waste reduction goals.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does Council have questions about the scenarios?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Metro's [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#) set a vision that centers racial equity to reduce waste, protect health and the environment and provide excellent services for everyone. Creating a

[Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan](#) is helping implement that vision by identifying the places where people lack services and setting a strategy to invest in modernizing the region’s reuse, recycling and garbage infrastructure. The Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan Work Plan was adopted by Council Resolution in February 2022 (Metro Council Resolution No. 22-5248). The Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan Values and Outcomes were endorsed by Metro Council in September 2022.

The plan will focus on facilities such as transfer stations and reuse and recycling centers that play a key role in managing the things we all throw away. Future investments may include building new facilities, adding new services to existing facilities, and identifying other alternatives.

The plan is being developed across five phases from Spring 2022 to Fall 2024. The expected completion date of the plan has been extended from Spring 2024 to Fall 2024 to ensure there is enough time to work collaboratively with project stakeholders to build a draft plan that has broad, regional support.







The plan is being informed by engagement with multiple stakeholders including local government partners, garbage and recycling businesses, reuse and repair organizations and community members. Staff are engaging communities of color, urban indigenous peoples and other groups who are often more directly impacted by the decisions that affect the garbage and recycling system but have fewer opportunities to influence and shape that system. Each of these groups brings a unique perspective to the question of how to invest in garbage and recycling infrastructure in greater Portland. What staff learns from engagement will help to shape the plan and outline the challenges people experience using the garbage and recycling system.

Work Session Discussion - Scenarios

Four scenarios were developed in response to gaps that were identified in the region’s existing network of private, non-profit and public reuse, recycling and garbage facilities. The scenarios are detailed and evaluated in the [Discussion Guide](#) (Attachment 1). The scenarios describe different sets of actions Metro could take to address facility and infrastructure needs to fill cost, access and resiliency gaps, as well as to recover more material for reuse, recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

The presentation at this work session will summarize each of the proposed scenarios, how they were scored using the project evaluation criteria, and some of the themes and questions gathered at the Symposium.

Baseline	Full-Service	Distributed	No-Build
			
Metro does not build new facilities or address facility gaps, but maintains current facilities	Metro builds four large transfer stations and two new reuse facilities	Metro builds a network of distributed mid-sized facilities across the three counties	Metro increases requirements, invests in private facilities and renovates existing facilities

As a reminder, the gaps that the scenarios were built to address were identified through stakeholder engagement and technical research over the last year. An overview of the identified gaps was presented to Council on September 19, 2023 and findings are summarized in a [Facility gaps assessment summary report](#) and a [Phase 2 engagement summary report](#).

Next Steps

Next steps include developing preferred scenario elements to design an implementation strategy and final plan. Since the Symposium, staff have continued to provide engagement opportunities with the Metropolitan Mayors Consortium, community members who speak Spanish as their first language at Adelante Mujeres, Tribal governments who received an invitation to consult in Phase 2 of the project, and some local-government partners. The goal of these meetings is to continue to gather input on the scenarios from stakeholders that were not able to attend the Symposium, or who expressed interest in more information on the scenarios.

What was learned from the Symposium, the survey and the follow-up meetings will be summarized in an engagement report that will be shared with Metro Council in December 2023. In December, staff will also describe the steps to using input, research and analysis to develop a proposed list of preferred scenario elements. Proposed scenario elements will be brought to Council in February 2024 for review, discussion, and for Council to specify the elements and actions they want to be further developed and included in the plan. In June, Council will review the proposed plan elements and implementation strategy including: a list of the capital projects and level of investment, programs and policies to be implemented with an expected timeline, and financing plan.

Once Council approves the implementation strategy, the project will move into the final phases where the team will draft the full plan including existing guidance for siting and design of new facilities and indicators to measure the success of the plan over time.

ATTACHMENTS

- Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan, Discussion Guide

Is legislation required for Council action? Yes No