

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free), www.youtube.com/live/u20Ax0ZAelw**

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the work session to order at 10:33 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 Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension Locally Preferred Alternative**

Presenter(s): Alex Oreschak, Senior Transportation Planner, Metro
Shawn Canny, City Transportation Planner, PBOT

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative](#)

Staff presented the project background, its connection to the high capacity transit strategy, community input and the elements and timeline of the locally preferred alternative (LPA).

Deputy Council President Simpson appreciated the project for prioritizing affordable housing and advocated for building relationships with labor partners as soon as possible.

President Peterson asked about design elements to improve multimodal safety at the Vaughn Street intersection. PBOT staff described prohibited movements, increased north-south flow and bike-ped improvements as examples.

Councilor Hwang asked the lasting impacts of re-zoning industrial land, and PBOT staff replied that community input informed a mixed-use concept that retains some industrial land while supporting affordable housing, reducing car trips and creating living-wage jobs.

Councilor Nolan pressed PBOT staff on Portland's permitting process and asked whether this project could demonstrate

cross-bureau efficiency. PBOT staff noted close collaboration with the Water Bureau and Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

President Peterson reiterated her support for the project's potential for building new multifamily housing units. Councilor Gonzalez added that this project is also a key investment for Regional Flexible Funds.

11:00 June 2025 I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) MTIP Amendment Presentation

Presenter(s): Jean Senechal Biggs (she/her), Resource Development Manager, Metro
 Greg Johnson (he/him), Program Administrator, IBR Program
 Ray Mabey (he/him), Assistant Program Administrator, IBR Program

Attachments: [Draft Resolution No. 25-5503](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5503](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Modified Locally Preferred Alternative](#)
[Attachment 2 - OTC May 8, 2025, Staff Report IBR Update](#)
[Attachment 3 - IBR Major Project Assessment Summary-
 -DRAFT](#)
[Attachment 4 - Potential Construction Packages](#)

Staff reviewed the timeline for adopting plan amendments, and the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project Team described partnerships, national significance, project timelines, funding sources and next steps.

Councilor Gonzalez highlighted the economic impacts and projected 10,000 indirect jobs as opportunities for prosperity. The IBR team identified a study on workforce needs as a key need in early planning.

Deputy Council President Simpson asked how the IBR team is collaborating with Tribes to reduce disruption to natural resources in the project area. The team described efforts to reduce environmental impacts like contaminated stormwater and to

partner with Tribes to mitigate impacts on wetlands.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed concerns about the bridge's impact on Tribal cultural issues and Vancouver's downtown revitalization and asked about procedures to reduce cost overruns. The IBR team said they are looking to other mega projects to develop best practices to reduce costs, and that a firm specializing in aesthetics and historic representation will be employed to help develop concepts for the bridge.

The IBR team confirmed for Councilor Lewis that Tribal engagement is not part of the stakeholder engagement strategy but is a separate relationship with sovereign nations. The IBR team also affirmed, per support from Councilor Lewis, that light rail is a key element for the project.

Councilor Hwang asked the timeline for developing a tolling program and impacts to low-income drivers. The IBR team explained that the NEPA schedule has now advanced to allow for additional studies, with tolling expected to start in 2027. They referred to the tolling commission as the arbiter of costs.

12:00 Supportive Housing Services Reform: Metro Council Discussion of Next Steps

Presenter(s): Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

President Peterson led the conversation with support from staff. They reviewed the process to date, possible reforms and next steps.

President Peterson expressed her belief that a ballot measure in November 2025 is untenable. The Council largely expressed disappointment and agreement.

Councilor Gonzalez acknowledged voters' concerns about existing funding and intergovernmental collaboration, while Councilor Nolan reflected voters' expectations for material changes to the status quo.

Councilor Hwang shared his understanding of next steps, including the process of reform, planning for the future and improving communication.

President Peterson agreed the program must demonstrate change and shared her own next steps and timeline for developing a policy advisory committee (PAC) to implement reforms. Staff then elaborated on the proposed elements of reformed oversight.

Councilor Rosenthal commented that individual committees may require sub-committees or tiered systems of decision-making, and Councilor Nolan questioned how the proposed structure would support the enforceable deadlines necessary to achieve functional zero homelessness.

Councilor Lewis asked for more deliberate connection to the technical advisory committee, given the number of supportive housing experts in this region. She also recommended joint public meetings with county commissions.

Councilor Gonzalez wondered whether a PAC could address existing issues arising under the intergovernmental agreements, and Councilor Nolan asked whether work group members had changed their perspectives. President Peterson described participants as open-minded and highlighted opportunities for the PAC to advance new policies that could influence or improve existing agreements and relationships.

Staff then presented the roles and responsibilities of the various bodies presented in the plan for Council discussion. In response, Councilors Lewis and Hwang raised questions about authority. Councilor Lewis asked whether reforms could achieve the type of regulatory environment necessary for true compliance, and Councilor Hwang expressed concern about diffuse decision-making powers.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed concern about the size of the PAC and whether the structure will serve a regional vision. He

advocated, as had Councilor Lewis, for greater focus on service provider needs and perspectives.

1:00 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy COO Holly Calhoun reminded staff about workplace safety policies for extreme weather events.

1:05 Councilor Communication

Councilor Rosenthal shared a recent field trip to fuel storage that could be impacted in a natural disaster.

1:10 Adjourn

There being no further discussion, President Peterson adjourned the work session at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being more prominent than the last name "Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor