

STATE AND METRO REGION POLICY DISCUSSION– PRESENTATION BY SENATOR KHANH PHAM

Date: 5/19/2026
Department: Council Office
Meeting Date: 6/4/2026
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Presenters: Sen. Khanh Pham, Oregon
Senate District 23 (NE/SE Portland)
Length: 60 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Oregon State Senator Khanh Pham will join Metro Council for a work session to discuss the state and metro relationship and respective government legislative bodies thinking about shared policy areas, including transportation and housing. This session aims to be a more open-ended conversation of philosophy, goals, and policy approaches to issues affecting the Metro region.

ACTION REQUESTED

There are no actions or recommendations. This is an informational presentation.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Metro Council will take up the adoption of its 2027 legislative agenda in the Fall.

BACKGROUND

Khanh Pham is the State Senator for Oregon Senate District 23 (Jade District, SE & NE Portland), serving in her first term. She was first elected to the Oregon State House in 2020 and was the first Vietnamese American legislator in the State Legislature. She currently serves on the Senate Housing and Development Committee, the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, the Senate Labor and Business Committee, and the Joint Committees on Transportation. She is the Chair of the Senate Housing & Development Committee.

During her time as State Representative, Khanh has led on bills covering Clean Energy and Low-income Utility Rates, Jurisdictional Transfer of Unsafe State Highways to Local Cities, Transportation Safety Investments, Renters' Rights to Cooling and Heat Resilience, Willamette River Oil Tank Storage, Earned Income Tax Credit eligibility, Affordable Housing Preservation, Bias Crimes Response and Victim Support, Voter Language Access, the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, Afghan Arrivals Support, and Pacific Islander Student Success.

Prior to the legislature, Khanh was a founding leader of and spokesperson for the groundbreaking Portland Clean Energy Fund Initiative, which successfully passed in November 2018. She served as the Interim Alliance Director at the Oregon Just Transition

Alliance, leading efforts to develop a frontline-led vision and platform for an Oregon Green New Deal. Prior to that, she was a Environmental Justice Manager at the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). Khanh brings years of experience in community organizing and a deep commitment to Environmental and Climate Justice. Khanh has a BA from Lewis & Clark College and a Masters in Urban Studies from Portland State University, where she specialized in urban planning, climate change adaptation, and equity planning.

Sen. Pham's current Senate Committee Assignments:

- [Senate Interim Committee On Housing and Development](#) - Chair
- [Joint Committee On Transportation](#) - Co-Chair
- [Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology](#) - Co-Chair
- [Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Oversight](#) - Co-Chair
- [Senate Interim Committee On Energy and Environment](#)
- [Senate Interim Committee On Transportation](#)

ATTACHMENTS

None