

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 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/_Fos3L0cS7c**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
President Peterson thanked Metro's communications staff for their work developing a new video about Metro's programs and services.

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Christine Lewis

2. Welcome Dr. Shereef Elnahal, M.D., President, Oregon Health and Science University

President Peterson welcomed Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Oregon Health and Science University's new president. Dr. Elnahal thanked Metro for its partnership with OHSU on regional health issues. He emphasized the intersection of houselessness, mental health conditions, and substance use disorder.

Councilor Hwang shared his positive impression of OHSU's Gateway health clinic, which connects patients to other services like transit. He also thanked OHSU's Dr. Don Spight for his participation in Metro's Social Innovation Council.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed his hope that medical care will continue to improve through innovation, even as public funding for health services is declining.

Councilor Rosenthal shared his appreciation for OHSU's services to the community, including a dashboard that helps people locate available providers. Dr. Elnahal emphasized that the dashboard provides an opportunity for tracking outcomes and measuring success.

Councilor Nolan wished Dr. Elnahal and OHSU success in their endeavors. Councilor Nolan and Deputy Council President Simpson each offered their support in upcoming initiatives.

3. Public Communication

Joe Cortwright, City Observatory, advocated for Metro to make more progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with Metro's Climate Smart Strategy.

Councilor Gonzalez thanked Mr. Cortwright for his remarks about reducing emissions and the Climate Smart Strategy, and he highlighted that the Environmental Protection Agency is considering changes to its interpretation of the Endangered Species Act that could affect future actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Councilor Rosenthal also thanked Mr. Cortwright and emphasized the importance of getting the details right in the next Regional Transportation Plan.

Councilor Nolan called for greater commitment to promises made in previous plans to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1 **Resolution No. 25-5512** For the Purpose of Adopting the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Title VI Plan and Delegating Authority to the Chief Operating Officer

Attachments: [Resolution no. 25-5512](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution no. 25-5512](#)
[Staff Report](#)

- 4.2 **Consideration of the July 31, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [July 31, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

- 4.3 **Consideration of the August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

No discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Simpson, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentations**5.1 Presentation of Results of Transparent Governance Audit**

Presenter(s): Brian Evans, Metro Auditor

Attachments: [Transparent Governance Audit](#)

Councilor Lewis joined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Metro's elected Auditor Brian Evans presented the audit, which included public meetings, record requests, contracting data and lobbyists registrations as categories of assessment. Auditor Evans also described the recommendations for each category, as included in the audit.

Chief Operating Officer Madrigal provided the management response. She noted that staff are currently reviewing the ease of accessing information about public meetings and ensuring compliance with ADA standards. She also highlighted new initiatives within the COO's office to modernize business practices and improve the efficiency of contracting, which would also result in reduced human error and increased transparency. She mentioned new reminder systems for filing deadlines for people who register as lobbyists.

Auditor Evans clarified for Councilor Lewis the methodology for counting public meetings over time, and he confirmed for Councilor Hwang that the audit methodology sought to remove intergovernmental agreements from its contracting review.

Councilor Hwang asked how housing and homelessness programming have impacted procurement and records requests. Auditor Evans emphasized that continuing the audit in future years will help improve understanding of the as-yet limited data.

Councilor Rosenthal voiced concerns about the methodology used in certain findings, advocating for an approach that better accounts for year-to-year variations.

Councilor Nolan posited that if Metro were to implement its own standards for lobbying, the Council may want to consider how to analyze time registered lobbyists spend volunteering on Metro committees. Auditor Evans also clarified for Councilor Nolan that analysis of public meetings considered Council and advisory meetings as public meetings.

Councilor Lewis suggested a possible partnership with Multnomah County and the City of Portland, supported by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, to educate local lobbyists on differences between local and state lobbying rules.

Councilor Gonzalez wondered whether nonprofit recipients of Metro funds should be considered lobbyists when communicating with Councilors.

6. Resolutions

- 6.1 **Resolution No. 25-5514** For the Purpose of Authorizing an Exemption From Competitive Bidding and Procurement of Construction Manager/General Contractor Services by Competitive Request for Proposals for Installation of a Permanent Stormwater Treatment System at the Metro Central Transfer Station

Presenter(s): Julie Hoffman, Procurement Analyst
 Sebrina Nelson, Construction Project Manager
 Jason O' Donnell, Compliance Manager

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5514](#)
 [Exhibit A](#)
 [Staff Report](#)

President Peterson recessed the meeting of the Metro Council and opened a meeting of the Metro Contract Review Board at 11:32 a.m.

Presenters described the proposal for a competitive, values-based procurement for the stormwater project, so that project contracts and designers could collaborate closely, resulting in fewer change orders over the course of the project.

President Peterson adjourned the meeting of the Metro Contract

Review Board at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened the Metro Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

7. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal announced a Metro Mixer at the City of Durham and noted that staff would begin developing the FY 2026-2027 budget in the coming weeks. She also invited people to participate in the We Believe in Portland cleanup event downtown.

8. Councilor Communication

Councilor Gonzalez thanked the Metro employees for hosting an event to celebrate Latine Heritage Months. He also reported on the JPACT delegation's trip to Washington, D.C. and the discussion at the most recent meeting about the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Councilor Rosenthal shared that Metro sponsored a Sno-Cap golf tournament and appreciated Metro Parks and Nature staff for leading a tour of Chehalem Ridge Nature Park. Councilor Gonzalez added that Metro's scientists educated tour participants and bring incredible value to the community.

Councilor Hwang described topics presented at the Housing Oregon Conference, including panels about social housing and innovations in modular construction and mass timber.

President Peterson recognized Melissa Arnold, Metro's Housing Strategic Initiatives Lead, who was named a Star Player at the Housing Oregon Conference. She also announced that Smart Growth America is hosting an event at the Transportation Research Board.

9. Adjourn

With no other business, President Peterson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Buzzini