

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, November 6, 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/watch?v=6FnVtaDksb8**

Council work session

Work session will begin at 10:30 a.m. Agenda item times are estimated and the order of items may be subject to change.

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992). Stream on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FnVtaDksb8

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

President Peterson recognized Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren for her service to the region.

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

Excused: 1 - Councilor Christine Lewis

2. Work Session Topics:

2.1 Supportive Housing Services Proposed Draft Reform Actions

Presenter(s): Liam Frost (he/him), Interim Housing Director
Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Division Director

Attachments: [Staff report](#)

Staff reviewed proposed reforms to the region's Supportive Housing Services program in two parts. In the first part, staff reviewed four reforms: investments, key performance indicators, data and administration.

Councilor Rosenthal wondered whether Metro's Regional Investment Fund (RIF) would support vouchers and food security. Staff explained that the proposed new committee should have flexibility but is expected to have more focused strategies, taking a systems approach. Staff said that existing top priorities are

healthcare integration and programs to connect with landlords. Councilor Rosenthal also asked how homeless youth would be served under the proposal; staff replied that youth are represented in the continuum of care in all three counties and that the only populations specifically described in the work plan are Populations A and B, as defined in the 2020 measure.

Councilor Hwang touched on the issue of proportionality between the three counties within the RIF. He advocated for a system with greater accountability and resulting actions for agencies who do not meet the framework expectations.

Councilor Gonzalez opened that it is not a good use of time to renegotiate the RIF for administering only five more years of the program, as currently set to sunset. He argued in favor of strengthening the existing program, leaving open the possibility of a re-designed new program in the future. He pressed for outcomes that support a regional system yet reiterated that designing a new system for the next five years is not realistic.

Councilor Nolan expressed concern that the plan represented a lack of urgency, with plan implementation stretching 18 months. The Council tabled the RIF discussion and moved to key performance indicators.

Councilor Nolan opened the conversation with an eye to accountability and suggested the three counties should be incentivized to work together to achieve goals by sharing responsibility. Staff noted that in addition to key performance indicators, they proposed shared accountability.

Staff confirmed for Councilor Rosenthal that existing indicators will be retained in addition to the new indicators proposed in the reforms. Staff explained that the outcomes for different types of shelters are all tracked using the same indicators; each shelter

type's progress is analyzed to reflect how services benefit the target population.

Deputy President Simpson focused his comment on a system that provides fully comprehensive services for the residents with the highest needs. He highlighted the differences between people receiving treatment independently and residents who require long-term support in a designated facility. Staff agreed that delineating these populations-especially those not designed to receive care from this particular funding source-is important.

Councilor Hwang offered that indicators must be flexible over time to support shifting funds for acute needs. Gonzalez appreciated the program's progress on current goals and indicators, in spite of the growing community need. Staff confirmed for Deputy President Simpson that most progress on those goals was achieved with measure funds, not federal dollars that will now be cut. Yet, progress in the upcoming five years is unlikely to match the previous five years. Deputy President Simpson noted that impacts the Council's desire to be bold on this issue.

President Peterson assessed Councilor support for the elements of the first part of the presentation and staff moved into a description of a new committee to support implementation of housing programs.

On the subject of elected official makeup, Councilors' comments ranged. Some felt at least 3 Metro Councilors would be appropriate, to demonstrate the Council's commitment to one of its top priorities. The final number of Councilors seemed to hinge on whether Metro Council would also approve all decisions, as part of a bicameral system. Councilor Nolan suggested representation by population, not county, but other Councilors did not speak in favor of the suggestion.

For county elected official representation, Councilors supported between one and three positions per county, depending on the size of the county and/or the weight afforded to Metro Council's three. Several Councilors also specified that City of Portland should have its' own representation. Councilors generally supported a technical advisory committee, on which service providers could share expertise without conflicts of interest.

Last, Councilors agreed the committee should be balanced between elected positions and non-elected positions. To share the needs of service providers who may receive funds, Councilor Nolan suggested representation from associations, which several Councilors appreciated.

3. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Holly Calhoun thanked employees for attending the town hall and announced that goal setting that reflects the results from the annual employee survey would follow in the months to come. She also announced that a Metro Mixer would be held in Gresham.

4. Councilor Communication

Councilor Rosenthal thanked Wilsonville for their work to develop and pass a climate action plan, also commending their recent work on equity.

Councilor Nolan congratulated their sister on her re-election.

Break

5. Budget Workshop

5.1 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Development Workshop

Presenter(s): Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Chief Operating Officer
Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[FY2026-27 Councilor Direction & Idea Form Template](#)

In her opening remarks, COO Madrigal highlighted budget goals to

improve operational resilience and weather instability and uncertainty.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Kennedy began his presentation with an overview the economic outlook for the next five years, covering economic indicators, the job market and sector impacts. He then reviewed revenues and expenses for each fund.

President Peterson expressed concern about the economy and raised a possible comparison to her time as an elected official in 2008. CFO Kennedy noted that today's economic conditions are comparatively mitigated because Metro's reserves are healthy, and because the agency had main some painful cuts to the current fiscal year.

Councilor Hwang asked if the current budget cycle had the flexibility to respond to needed changes, as intended. CFO Kennedy said that flexibility had been, for the most part, successful, but that certain venues continued to pose challenges. He noted that upgrading financial and human resources systems to increase efficiency were successful.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how the data predicting a slow recovery should impact Council decision making to support generating economic activity. COO Madrigal suggested focusing on supporting tourism, sports and preventing risks to economic strain could be a strong position for Council. CFO Kennedy added that previously approved voter supported measures, like the Oregon Zoo Bond and Parks and Nature Bond, help stimulate the economy by continuing to produce projects funded with those funds.

President Peterson suggested research the best practices and lessons learned from governments around the world who face population decline, such as Japan and Italy.

6. Adjourn

President Peterson adjourned the work session at 1:42 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
November 12, 2025