

STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-5331, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ADOPTING GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF MEANINGFUL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

Date: 05/31/2023
Department: Communications
Meeting Date: June 15, 2023

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Length: 3 pages

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro's current Principles of Citizen Involvement were adopted in 1997 by Resolution No. 97-2433. Metro staff is proposing to update the guiding principles to bring them into alignment with Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, current best practices for meaningful engagement and Metro values. These guiding principles for meaningful public engagement create a foundation to sustain an equitable and democratic culture of collaboration and accountability at Metro. The adopted guiding principles will help provide a foundation to update Metro's public engagement guide.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Metro's Guiding Principles of Meaningful Public Engagement. All proposed engagement activities whether virtual or in-person should meet one or more of the following principles when planning and implementing engagement processes for Metro decision-making on policies, programs, investments or implementation of such Metro Council actions.

History of review for the updated guiding principles for meaningful public engagement:

March/April

- The first draft of thirteen proposed guiding principles were adapted from:
 - Principles of Citizen Involvement adopted 1997
 - COVID 19 Community Engagement Policy, adopted in 2020
 - Public Engagement Guide, adopted in 2013
- Draft one with thirteen updated guiding principles reviewed by:
 - Staff: project steering team, project team, engagement specialists
 - Public Engagement Review Committee (includes local government staff, residents, community-based organizations)
 - Metro Council provided guidance on first draft during briefings.

May

- Staff produced a second draft of seven guiding principles based on all feedback received.
- Public Engagement Review Committee reviewed second draft and voted for approval.
- Committee on Racial Equity reviews second draft of guiding principles.
- Staff makes updates to guiding principles based on all input resulting in eight guiding principles.
- May 30 - Metro Council reviews updated draft of guiding principles at Work Session.

June

- Staff makes updates to the guiding principle language, description or expected implementation based on Metro Council feedback.
- Metro Council considers adoption of Metro's Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement.
- Staff begins to update Public Engagement Guide in support of Metro's new guiding principles for meaningful public engagement.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The implementation of the Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement reflect Metro's Strategic Framework including the advancement of Racial Justice, Climate Justice and Resilience, Shared Prosperity.

Adoption of updated Metro's Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement will:

- replace Principles of Citizen Involvement adopted in 1997 by Resolution No. 97-2433
- provide a path for updating Metro's Public Engagement Guide
- support Metro Council in making decisions that are well informed, sustainable and address the needs and priorities of the diverse communities in the greater Portland region.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

None

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Option 1: Approve the updated Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement as-is. Honors input and role of Public Engagement Review Committee, Committee on Racial Equity and Metro engagement staff. Also provides a foundation to update the Public Engagement Guide.

Option 2: Do not approve, make recommendations for further development. Would delay timeline for Public Engagement Guide update.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Metro’s Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement as they are. The updated version includes Metro Council feedback.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

These guiding principles for meaningful public engagement create a foundation to sustain an equitable and democratic culture of collaboration and accountability at Metro. The adopted guiding principles will help provide a foundation to update Metro’s public engagement guide.

The proposed guiding principles for meaningful public engagement were voted on and approved by the Public Engagement Review Committee, who is charged with advising Metro Council on public engagement best practices.

The implementation of the Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement will support the advancement of Metro’s Strategic Framework including Racial Justice, Climate Justice and Resilience, Shared Prosperity

And finally, the implementation of the updated Guiding Principles for Meaningful Public Engagement will support the advancement of Metro’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

- a. Goal A: Metro convenes and supports regional partners to advance racial equity.
- b. Goal B: Metro meaningfully engages communities of color.
- c. Goal D: Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations.
- d. Goal E: Metro's resource allocation advances racial equity.

BACKGROUND

Metro Council had not reviewed or adopted guiding principles for public engagement or involvement since 1997. The guiding principles from 1997 were relied upon by the Metro Council when it adopted the 2013 Public Engagement Guide, which included a slightly updated version of guiding principles.

In 2023, Metro Council reviewed two different drafts of updated guiding principles for meaningful public engagement and provided feedback and direction. Feedback was either applied to the language of the guiding principles or will be considered during the development of an updated Public Engagement Guide and could impact processes improvements for communication and engagement processes.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Input summary on guiding principles for meaningful engagement