

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

**3:30 PM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council Annex**

**Council work session**

**3:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session called to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Present:** 5 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Lynn Peterson

**Excused:** 2 - Councilor Shirley Craddick, and Christine Lewis

**3:35 Consideration of Letter: I5 Rose Quarter Project Public Comment Period**

Council President Peterson introduced Ms. Margi Bradway to present on the I-5 Rose Quarter Project. Ms. Bradway stated the public comment period for this project would end on April 1, 2019. Ms. Bradway introduced Mr. Roger Gonzalez, Metro Council President's Policy Advisor. Mr. Gonzalez provided a brief overview of a letter drafted on behalf of the Council to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding the Rose Quarter Project. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the letter expresses Council's priorities of equity and sustainability and their concerns surrounding the strength of the environmental assessment taking place.

*Council Discussion*

Council President Peterson inquired if this letter would allow for Metro to have standing in the process of the Rose Quarter Project. Ms. Bradway explained the difference between the federal environmental assessment standing and the standards under the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA) grant. She also described the litigation process that could be pursued if needed.

Metro Attorney Nathan Sykes inquired if there would be time available for Metro's attorney's office to review the letter before the public comment period. Mr. Sykes additionally asked if the attorney's office could revise the letter to make minor adjustments and add legal language.

Councilor Stacey stated that he had some edits and language suggestions as well.

Councilor Chase suggested addressing the history of the Rose Quarter community in the letter and the intention for this project to improve upon it. He requested for the Albina Vision project to be mentioned and for an outcome to enhance the air quality within the community.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired of the difference between an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and an Environmental Assessment (EA). Ms. Bradway responded that an EA does not study the impacts of various alternative options, whereas the EIS weighs the alternatives and the measures severity of the effects of each option.

Council President Peterson asked to include a report of Metro's request for an EIS report within the letter. Councilor Gonzalez raised concerns of the current approach to the project and its neglect of the existing community surrounding the Rose Quarter area.

#### **4:00 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2019**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1.0	Letter	3/21/2019	I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Environmental Assessment Comments by Elissa Gertler	032119cw-01
2.0	Letter	3/21/2019	Draft I-5 Rose Quarter Project Comments Response by Council President Peterson	032119cw -02