

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 22, 2021

2:00 PM

Revised 04/20

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> or (346)-248-7799

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

Work Session Topics:**2:05 Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan Work Session**

Council President Peterson introduced Patricia Rojas, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, Executive Director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services Marc Jolin and Interim Deputy Director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services Josh Bates to present on the topic.

Staff raised the Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan Work Presentation.

Staff provided a framework for the implementation and outlined required elements of the work plan. Staff reviewed the metrics that will be used to measure regional outcomes. Staff furthermore expounded on three major topics: 1) plan development & community engagement review, 2) local implementation plan (LIP) content overview, and 3) the supportive housing services (SHS) implementation 1-year budget.

Point 1 included coverage of community engagement strategies, specific groups engaged, jurisdictional coordination, the LIP approval process, and Phase II planning and engagement.

Point 2 included coverage of the guiding values and

commitments employed, overall planned investment areas, prospective supportive housing outcomes, organizational capacity, and how staff plans to operationalize SHS data and metrics.

Point 3 covered goals of the SHS implementation 1-year budget, including: creating homes, pre-housing opportunities and removal of barriers to receiving support, and foundation building across jurisdictions and in collaboration with partners.

Staff then opened up to receive questions from Council and sought guidance on how staff can best support Council.

Council Discussion

Councilors expressed support for the exceptional work that staff has done so far in this process.

Staff identified coordinating involvement with law enforcement as part of barrier-removal to ensure access to housing, among other points of contact.

Councilor Nolan sought a goal of ending homelessness (not just reducing it). Staff noted that this goal is limited in part by the amount of resources provided to eliminate those “drivers” of homelessness, such as rising housing costs, systemic racism, and so-forth.

Councilor Lewis sought a timeline on strategic re-alignment. Staff noted that the nature of a multi-jurisdictional partnership necessitates that they re-align frequently to adjust a need that can be difficult to predict; however, their current estimations should be consistent with the needs of the 1-year plan. Councilor Gonzalez espoused a want to tap multiple sources to compound aid to reach functional zero

homelessness within 10 years. Councilor Rosenthal requested staff explain how staff will ensure that residents in supportive housing are not located in service deserts. President Peterson identified sustainable housing as one of the foremost issues in the region and in the country, and expressed a want to run in tandem with the accomplishments of Multnomah county services.

2:50 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Budget Work Session

Council President Peterson introduced Roy Brower to present on the topic.

Staff raised the *Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Budget Presentation*.

Staff provided an overview of the role that Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) plays in the system and covered a loose overview of the Metro facilities, systems, programs, and services provided in 2019 to contrast to impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff further reviewed efforts made by WPES to keep their promises and a framework to “build back better.

Staff covered the following WPES strategic priorities: 1) foster inclusive prosperity and workforce equity; 2) prepare for emergencies and solid waste system recovery; 3) strengthen systems for recovery of recyclables, food scraps, and yard debris; 4) provide excellent and equitable garbage and recycling system access and service; and 5) reduce environmental and health impacts of products and trash and advance environmental literacy. Equity program actions were summarized and key indicators of identified priorities were defined.

Thereafter staff provided the WPES budget proposal, identifying significant proposals and changes, and outlining

exact figures. Staff identified the recent modernization of recycling systems bill passed by the state legislature as an exciting development that will greatly impact climate change initiatives.

Council Discussion

At the request of Council staff identified future needs and areas that have been (and continue to be) significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Facilities were identified as a hopeful area of investment in the future in order to support WPES services (such as RID patrol). Councilor Nolan identified a want to invest in RID to get back to the 3-day cleanup deadline previously supported by department staff as a maintenance standard. Councilor Stacey identified the replacement of the Metro South facility as an imperative need. Councilor Craddick noted that she would like to see portions of the budget applied towards innovation moreover expansion. Additionally Councilor Craddick expressed her hopes that Community Enhancement Funding become more regionally-applicable rather than being city-specific. In response to concerns expressed by Councilor Nolan staff identified the facilities overview as part of a larger effort to evaluate the programs and policies to do with waste disposal. Councilor Nolan expressed preferring an alternative to expanding facilities-such as utility pricing reform.

3:35 Planning and Development Budget Work Session

Council President Peterson introduced Elissa Gertler to present on the topic. They were additionally joined by Rachael Lembo.

Staff raised the *Planning and Development Budget Work Session Presentation*.

Staff provided a detailed breakdown of the Planning &

Development total budget as well as the general fund budget, affordable housing fund budget, supportive housing Svcs fund budget, and the Planning & Development budget & FTE summary. Impacts of events on individual programs and categories were reviewed.

Staff identified significant budget and programmatic changes. They additionally outlined the following elements of the strategic framework: 1) create an equitable regional system to provide more affordable housing for thousands of people across the region; 2) climate justice, racial justice, mobility policy, congestion pricing and transportation funding, travel model enhancements, and other MPO responsibilities; 3) recovery plan development, Emergency Growth Trends, and housing services policy framework; 4) replace the unjust and discriminatory foundations of urban planning with new practices, systems and approaches that promote racial justice and harm restoration; and 5) rebuild structures and systems of power, influence, engagement and decision-making.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis inquired as to whether Metro would be supplemented by any federal dollars. Staff confirmed that the budget is wide open to that prospect. Councilor Rosenthal expressed concerns as to whether Metro's role as a resource for regional data collection will be compromised. Staff agreed that this data and analytical role is crucial to maintain, and that they expect to do so. Marissa identified a financial deficit in the research department that staff has worked to circumvent and create a more efficient structure.

Councilor Craddick requested an expansion on the function of the contingency fund. Staff noted that they have

projections, but that they want to be prepared to support programs as needed. Councilor Craddick identified much in the way of uncertainty as to how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect adjacent businesses that could draw from funding (such as construction), and advised staff to keep a generous contingency fund to ensure that all projects are fulfilled to the fullest extent possible.

Councilor Lewis asked staff directly whether or not Metro is funded adequately to support the long-term planning for which they are responsible as an MPO. Staff noted that responsibilities as an MPO remain a priority, and they work hard to ensure that these responsibilities are adequately funded utilizing the federal dollars provided. Additionally, however, they continually seek innovative solutions to transportation efforts, and are open to other means of securing funds to explore avenues identified as being of interest to Council.

4:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal informed Council that she would follow up by email with updates.

4:25 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Parks Bond Implementation Liaison update

4:30 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shay Starling, Legislative Assistant