

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

10:45 AM

**<https://zoom.us/j/471155552> (Webinar ID: 471155552) or
877-853-5257 (toll free)**

Council strategy session

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Council Strategy Session to order at 10:48 a.m.

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, and Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal

2. Retreat Topics:**2.1 Strategic Framework Update**

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her).

Staff pulled up *Strategic Framework Update PowerPoint Presentation*.

Marissa discussed the agenda for the strategy session, strategic framework for recovery, and commitments and guiding principles to Metro's strategic framework.

Councilor Rosenthal asked why land use and transportation are grouped together and why Metro doesn't list regional information services as a one of Metro's services.

President Peterson explained why Metro combines land use and transit.

Councilors Lewis and Rosenthal discussed visitor venues and economic development.

Marissa discussed Metro's Human Resources department.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about core perks of Metro and how it fits into HR.

Marissa explained that Information Services (IS) are

working to make sure that technology is distributed to everyone that needs it then discussed the finance department.

Councilor Nolan expressed that the connection between money spent by Metro and tangible results being seen in the region should be accelerated.

Marissa thanked Councilor Nolan for the suggested and discussed Metro's IS department.

Councilor Nolan asked why IS projects that people of color are more likely to work from home in the future and expressed that understanding root cause is important.

Marissa explained that woman and people of color have reported more benefits from working from home and Metro's Capital Asset Management and Communication departments.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if staff anticipates future efforts in improved communication in response to natural disasters.

Marissa explained the difference between emergency management communication and day to day communication and goals around emergency communication training.

Council President Peterson added that flexibility is important when emergencies occur.

Marissa discussed Metro's Diversity Equity and Inclusion department (DEI).

Councilor Nolan expressed appreciation for the DEI team and stressed that DEI's work must continue internally but must also extend to the way the public experiences Metro's work and followed up by voicing that the DEI team is not exclusively focused on racial equity.

Marissa agreed with Councilor Nolan's comments.

Councilor Gonzalez emphasized that spending money smarter can be a good way to continue to advance the work being done by the DEI team.

Marissa discussed the Oregon Convention Center and Portland's.

Councilor Lewis asked staff to prepare context that includes the Portland's Foundation for Council's upcoming budget discussion on Portland's.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if equity lenses are used in hiring at Portland's.

Marissa confirmed that equity lenses are used in hiring.

Councilor Craddick expressed hope that a long term plan be developed for the needs of the Portland's facilities and stressed the importance of outreach to communities of color to attend performances.

Councilor Nolan echoed Councilor Craddick's thoughts and stressed the importance of collaboration between Metro and the City of Portland.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if the region's arts communities and venues have a concise vision for arts in the region.

Council President Peterson responded to Councilor Rosenthal's question by explaining that a regional visioning board is being worked on so a vision for arts in the region can be understood.

Councilor Lewis provided information about arts companies in the region and voiced the need for discussion about arts venues regionally.

Councilor Gonzalez highlighted arts venues outside of Metro and stressed the need for Metro to work with these venues.

Councilor Craddick stressed the importance of Metro to understand the needs of venues throughout the entire region.

Marissa thanked Council for input and discussed the Expo Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Councilor Rosenthal asked when staff will have more information about the potential for a special district for the Zoo.

Marissa responded by explaining that there is no current proposal to examining that.

Councilor Craddick asked for more information around updating the master plan for the zoo.

Marissa discussed Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES).

Councilor Rosenthal asked for confirmation that WPES will be analyzing what is needed for solid waste.

Marissa confirmed and provided more information on the analysis that will be carried out.

Councilor Lewis expressed that it is important for metro to discuss harder to recycle items as well as street cleanup.

Roy Brower (he/him) explained that WPES is putting an emphasis on bulky waste cleanup.

Councilor Craddick emphasized that the bulky waste problem is a regional issue.

Council President Peterson requested analysis to be done on how solid waste services are delivered in the region.

Roy described Toronto's solid waste collection model.

Councilor Nolan expressed that education and communication resources must be dedicated to this cleanup effort.

Marissa discussed Parks and Nature.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there is an active process to engage with transportation to improve access to these facilities.

Marissa explained that transportation and Parks and Nature work together on larger projects and discussed the planning department.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there will be a regional effort to eliminate discriminatory housing practices.

Elissa Gertler (she/her) explained that this questioned will be discussed at a future work session.

Councilor Nolan asked how the federal government is adapting its housing investments in ways that could affect this region.

Elissa explained that there are funding and policy opportunities around housing that are available because of federal resources.

Marissa recommended four Council priorities for the upcoming year.

Councilor Nolan expressed that transportation planning must be added to the list of priorities.

Councilor Lewis agreed with Councilor Nolan that transportation planning must be a priority.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed that transportation planning should be a priority and added that this should be looked at though a climate smart lens.

Councilor Craddick asked Council if anyone is thinking about budget amendments.

Marissa confirmed with Council that they would like transportation planning to be added to the list of priorities.

Council President Peterson added that more specificity is needed in order to add this to the list of priorities.

Councilor Gonzalez echoed the need for transportation to be listed as a priority and stressed the importance on

climate action.

Councilor Nolan responded to Councilor Craddick's question by expressing that they are not in a position to voice an amendment to the budget and hope that they will be able to provide more input on the budget development process and highlighted that they would like the transportation priority to be focused on climate obligations.

Councilor Lewis explained that she is still not ready to discuss potential budget amendments and provided more information on her thoughts on transportation priorities.

Metro Council President Peterson voiced that congestion pricing is the most important transportation focus for Council and explained that no one will be appointed to be WPES and Parks liaisons because what is being discussed there is too important so all of Council must be engaged.

2.2 Budget Overview

Staff pulled up *Budget Overview PowerPoint Presentation*.

Brian discussed the agenda for this presentation, last fiscal year, that Metro is financially recovering, general tax revenues, Oregon's economy, new economic threats, Oregon's uneven recovery, and the five year forecast the following areas of Metro: General Fund, Planning and Development, Oregon Convention Center, Portland's Expo Center, Oregon Zoo, Parks and Nature Operating Fund, Waste Prevention & Environmental Services, Affordable Housing Bond, Supportive Housing Services, Parks and Nature Bond.

Council President Peterson asked if recent event cancellations have been taken into account.

Brian explained that recent cancellations would probably have a small effect on the forecast because they took a conservative approach.

Councilor Lewis asked if zoo concerts were added back into this forecast.

Brian explained that events from revenues were added in the Oregon Zoo forecast.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the uncertainty at the five year projection.

Brian explained that with the uncertainties around COVID have made uncertainties greater.

Councilor Lewis asked how much money is left in old Parks and Nature bonds.

Brian responded by explaining that there is a relatively immaterial amount of money left in previous bonds, explained financial challenges and opportunities for Metro and next steps for Council.

Marissa thanked Council and staff for the discussion.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Strategy Session at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stellan Roberts

Stellan Roberts, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 30, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	PowerPoint	11/30/21	Strategic Framework Update PowerPoint Presentation	113021cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	11/30/21	Budget Overview PowerPoint Presentation	113021cw-02