

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

10:30 AM

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

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:30 a.m.

Work Session Topics:

10:35 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Land Acquisition Program: Update and Next Steps

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Jon Blasher (he/him), Dan Moeller (he/him), and Shannon Leary (she/her) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Parks and Nature Bond Land and Trail Acquisition Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation overviewed the Protect and Restore Land Acquisition program, a component of the 2019 parks and nature bond. The staff explained that Metro's parks and nature priorities of protecting water quality, enhancing climate resilience, and creating equitable access to nature have been defined through community engagement and regional conservation strategies. The presenters noted that land purchases were evaluated through the lens of Metro's bond criteria, being weighed by an objective framework. Specific attention was given to the acquisition of land for the trails program, in which up to \$10 million dollars would be invested to purchase land for new walking and biking trails.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal commented that the Parks and Nature department should consider the classification of keystone species, species that may not be threatened but play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. He also noted the

importance of having fire control plans for all of Metro's larger parks.

Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on why the urban growth boundary is listed as being a target area for park land acquisition

Staff replied that urban target areas were outlined by evaluating the area's attributes against the bond criteria, as well as by working with local communities to understand the importance of certain natural areas. Furthermore, the urban target area has roughly \$100 million dollars of local share money to use for other funding projects, therefore increasing the flexibility of the bond measures in comparison to other potential areas.

Councilor Gonzalez discussed criticisms leveled at the parks and nature bond, particularly that Metro overspends on projects and programs, commenting that it will be an expectation moving forward that Metro ensures that bond funds are being stretched and used in an effective manner. He proceeded to ask the presenters how Metro's leasing of purchased urban growth boundary land for agriculture can be viewed through a racial equity lens.

Staff explained that the leasing of acquired land for agriculture is simply a byproduct of this program. They reiterated that funding is being directed towards land purchases that with high-functioning ecosystems that need to be protected, and that land that does not meet this criterion can be sold back to farmers until more intensive nature restoration can begin. Metro is considering hiring a team that can focus solely on this type of land allocation and how it can uphold racial equity.

Councilor Gonzalez responded by suggesting that Metro could use this byproduct as an opportunity to foster land stewardship and wealth-building with local districts.

Council President Peterson asked for an update on the working lands program and how this measure will affect it.

Staff noted that a job position posting to head the working lands program was in its final stages of preparation.

Councilor Lewis questioned how the parks department makes the decision to choose which lands receive funding, as well as asking if there is a measure to ensure that each of the targeted areas receives at least some degree of funding. She also asked about the role that risk assessment plays in funding decisions, as some properties carry greater risks and require more government intervention.

Speaking to the councilor's first question, staff responded by stating that Metro needs to be opportunistic when purchasing and developing park lands, as it is a priority to use bond funds in a timely manner. Because of this, they do not set strict spending caps for each project area. The oversight committee functions to ensure that project dollars are being spent in a meaningful and equitable way across the areas. The presenters proceeded to explain that the parks and nature department works in conjunction with the office of the Metro attorney and the council office to evaluate the contamination risks of potential acquisition sites and compose plans for how to best address the risks.

Councilor Hwang asked about EJ spatial analysis has been applied to direct resources to the most vulnerable areas.

The presenters remarked that the analysis included several

datasets including variables for community need, environmental burden, flood reduction potential, and access to nature.

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

11:35 Tualatin Valley Highway Corridor Presentation

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)
[Attachment 4](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Eryn Kehe (she/her) and Jamie Snook to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the TV Highway HOPE Grant Introduction Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation discussed the Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which will be used to fund improvements to TV Highway. Grant funds will be used for both public transit planning, which will extend plans for bus rapid transit system and study electric vehicles, as well as equitable development, ensuring that community economic, housing, and development needs are reflected. The TV Highway corridor was chosen for grant funds as it serves many low-income and BIPOC populations, as well as having outdated infrastructure that creates a dangerous environment.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez offered his support for the grant

program, citing the dangerous nature of TV Highway as a key issue to address.

Councilor Lewis asked how we are preparing to ask the state legislature and the OTC for additional support to TV Highway over the next several years.

Staff replied by stating that the pathway towards bringing more assistance to the TV Highway corridor will be through collaboration, using this grant as the impetus for broader, more extensive change in the future.

Councilor Lewis mentioned that safe crossings must be included in the grant plan, as the bus routes necessitate safe crossing spaces.

Councilor Craddick questioned how to best handle a potential jurisdictional transfer of the road from the Oregon Department of Transportation, as TV Highway crosses several jurisdictions. Councilor Craddick then asked staff what their plan is moving forward with regards to partnership, as the FTA funds will likely be insufficient to complete the upgrades alone and partnerships with either local cities or counties will be necessary.

The presenters confirmed that inroads have been made with local jurisdictions to build the basis for partnership in the future. They stated that they have not been thinking heavily about a jurisdictional transfer of the road at this stage in the process, rather choosing to focus on working with ODOT to ensure that TV Highway can meet the needs of the community it serves.

Councilor Rosenthal commented that ODOT has expressed an interest in being a strong working partner on this project,

and that their pull may be helpful with coordinating pieces of the program.

Councilor Hwang noted the importance of supporting community members that are a part of the stakeholder committee.

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

12:35 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- Waste transfer stations are experiencing a backlog, and it may be decided to divert some waste outside of the standard stations.

12:40 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Gonzalez reminded the Council that the state of the region address occurs later that week.

12:45 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Kain, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF January 18, 2022

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	01/18/2022	Parks and Nature Bond Land and Trail Acquisition	111919cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	01/18/2022	TV Highway HOPE Grant Introduction	111919cw-02