

Meeting minutes



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: **Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC)**

Date/time: Friday, March 7, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Metro Regional Center 600 NE Grand Ave

Members Attending

Ted Leybold, Chair
Allison Boyd
Bill Beamer
Chris Ford
Danielle Casey
Eric Hesse
Indi Namkoong
Jasia Mosley
Jay Higgins
Jeff Owen
Judith Perez Keniston
Kate Lyman
Laurie Lebowsky-Young
Lewis Lem
Mike McCarthy
Sara Etter
Sarah Iannarone
Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride
Will Farley

Alternates Attending

Dakota Meyer
Dayna Webb
Francesca Jones
Glen Bolen
Gregg Snyder
Jamie Stasny
Jessica Pelz
Tanya Battye
Tara O'Brien

Members Excused

Ashley Bryers
Dyami Valentine
Gerik Kransky

Affiliate

Metro
Multnomah County
Community member at large
Oregon Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
City of Portland
Verde
Community member at large
City of Gresham and Cities of Multnomah County
Clackamas County
SW Washington Regional Transportation Council
TriMet
Washington State Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
City of Tualatin and Cities of Washington County
Oregon Walks
The Street Trust
Washington Department of Ecology
City of Lake Oswego and Cities of Clackamas County

Affiliate

City of Troutdale and Cities of Multnomah County
City of Oregon City and Cities of Clackamas County
City of Portland
Oregon Department of Transportation
City of Hillsboro and Cities of Washington County
Clackamas County
Washington County
City of Milwaukie and Cities of Clackamas County
TriMet

Affiliate

Federal Highway Administration
Washington County
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

CALL TO ORDER, DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tom Kloster called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum of members present was declared.

Tom welcomed everyone to the first in-person/hybrid TPAC Committee meeting since March 2020. He noted plans to potentially have another hybrid meeting in September. Metro staff and TPAC members introduced themselves.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following staff and committee member updates were made. Highlights included:

- Chris Ford (ODOT) Updated that ODOT was closing Oregon Route 99W for one night in Sherwood to install a new pedestrian bridge and will re-open the following morning.
- Ken Lobeck, Metro, provided a Monthly MTIP Amendments Update (material included in packet).
- Anthony Cabadas, Metro, provided the Fatal Crashes Update that included 14 traffic fatalities including walkers, drivers and motorcyclists between the ages of 17 and 81. Anthony noted that names are not available. He included information about work that other regional partners are doing to increase street safety, including, building pedestrian/bike bridges, investments in safer crosswalks, ADA curb ramps, protected bike lanes, improved lighting, upgrading signals, signs and street markings, and bike lane conflict markings. (presentation included in packet).
- Ally Holmqvist, Metro, provided the Transit Minute Update. She noted that she did not have the data portion of the transit minute available. She added that the Multnomah County access shuttle doubled its service from hourly to half hourly service and encouraged everyone to keep an eye out for the new schedule, which will be available in English and Spanish. (presentation included in packet).
- Jeff Owen, Clackamas County, announced a recent kickoff meeting for a county wide effort regarding safety improvements.
- Chris Ford, ODOT, noted that ODOT is funding 2 new multi-use path safety improvements that will be complete this spring.
- Eric Hesse, City of Portland, sent the group a link in Zoom chat to a press release of Portland's 2024 crash report which he noted looks better than last year's.
- Chair Kloster reminded committee members of the special TPAC workshop coming up on 3/10/25
- Lake McTighe, Metro, gave an update on Safe Streets grant. She provided a link to a survey about safe streets for all grant that should be available at the end of March. She is looking for interested parties to participate in Metro's application as co-applicants. (Survey provided in meeting packet)

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Smith, No More Freeways campaign, expressed concern with whether the cover money (Reconnecting Communities) is being used appropriately.

MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Chair Kloster asked the committee to approve the February 7, 2025, TPAC meeting minutes.

ACTION TAKEN: Hearing no objections, abstentions or edits, the minutes were approved as presented.

RESOLUTION 25-5473, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING A NEW ODOT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AWARDED PROJECT INTO THE 2024-27 MTIP FOR TRIMET SUPPORTING ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS TRANSIT NEEDS

Ken Lobeck, Metro, appeared before the committee to request approval recommendation to JPACT to complete all required MTIP programming actions to add a new project into the MTIP under Resolution 25-5473. The project involves a new ODOT Public Transportation Division (PTD) award to TriMet supporting TriMet’s elderly and disabled persons transportation needs program.

ACTION TAKEN: Sarah Iannarone moved, and Tara O’Brien seconded the motion to approve Resolution 25-5473. Sara Etter abstained. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION 25-5463, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THREE RELATED ROSE QUARTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO THE 2024-27 MTIP TO ADD \$250 MILLION DOLLARS OF APPROVED FUNDING TO THE PROJECTS

Ken Lobeck appeared before the committee and presented information (included in the meeting record) on Resolution 25-5463. The request amends 3 projects by adding \$250 million of Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved funding.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Formal Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Formal/Full Amendment represents a stand-alone formal amendment containing three Rose Quarter related projects.

Indi Namkoong, Verde, commented that they didn’t feel like they had enough information on the potential impact and the level of investment being made in reducing fatalities and serious injuries. They asked when that information would be available to TPAC. She added that she didn’t feel she had enough information to vote in favor of the amendment.

Jean Senechal Biggs, Metro, responded that if there are follow up questions staff are happy to come back to the committee to share information and provide additional details. Additionally, staff will share any feedback and comments to JPACT.

Megan Channel, ODOT, added that the responses that Metro provided are for the specific project phases, but the project in full ODOT has a lot of information of the environmental assessment process related to safety and other data that we can provide you with.

ACTION TAKEN: Greg Snyder moved, seconded by Laurie Lebowky-Young to approve Resolution 25-5463. With Indie Namkoong opposed, Sarah Iannarone and Bill Beamer abstaining, the motion passed.

2028-30 REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUND STEP 1A.1 NEW PROJECT BOND – PROJECT PROPOSAL AND UPDATED APPROACH FOR GETTING TO A PREFERRED BOND SCENARIO

Chair Kloster began by stating that if the committee could get to a recommendation to JPACT, that would be great, but if not, he suggests that we provide feedback to the policy makers.

Grace Cho, Metro, appeared before the committee and presented information on the 2028-30 RFFA step 1A.1 Draft Bond Allocation Scenario & Next Step.

She started by providing a PowerPoint presentation that included information on:

- Background information and a list of activities undertaken since July 2024 when the nomination period opened
- Allocation approach
- Draft bond scenario and overall performance
- Next steps

She outlined the discussion questions, which were:

- Comments/questions on development of a potential RFFA bond proposal for JPACT consideration
- What recommendation does TPAC want to make to JPACT regarding a RFFA bond proposal to release for public comment?

She reiterated that the request today was for TPAC to recommend to JPACT to release a draft bond scenario for public comment.

Members inquired about the public comment period and what level of detail will be provided on each project and how applicants can make sure that the projects are clear when presented to public.

Grace responded that they are still sorting out step 1 public comment. Considering a story map for the bond but the outcomes of 3/7/25 TPAC meeting will help shape and determine that outcome.

Chair Kloster reminded members to refrain from deliberating in the chat so that all members can be aware of conversations and decisions.

Tara O'Brien, TriMet, asked if two illustrative scenarios would be possible to advance? Grace responded that Tara could present a motion for that.

Jeff Owen, Clackamas County, noted that what was presented in the packet puts forward a nice blend of program direction and recognizes comments and discussion from JPACT. He added that the idea for providing multiple scenarios for providing public comment, as suggested by Tara, could be potentially confusing for the public. He expressed his desire for the committee to move forward something today that would be helpful for the upcoming JPACT discussion.

Jessica Pelz, Washington County, stated her agreement with Tara's comment and asked if the public comment period need to include the amounts or could it be a preference lens asking what they prefer. She added that from their perspective it would be important for the public to understand that all the projects either wouldn't all be funded and may not move forward or could all be funded. She added her desire for things to be as clear as possible for the public as comment is made.

Grace responded that the program direction it states that we need to put out projects proposed in the bond scenario for public comment.

Ted Leybold, Metro, noted that it would be JPACTs recommendation, in terms of their decision, what gets released.

Sarah Iannarone, The Street Trust, highlighted the risky time we are in right now with federal changes as well as a lack of public confidence in government at all levels. She noted that while staff are committed to staying on the timeline, but to the extent where we can stay flexible within that timeline would be critically important. She also questioned how this would be tied to Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She noted Metro's unique role is to mitigate inter jurisdictional competition for scarce resources. So, when the time comes to make hard decisions, we continue to meet our regional goals at the regional level in ways that matter for the economic output and the equity of the region. She added that from the Street Trust perspective, she isn't sure she could support the single scenario.

MOTION: Eric Hesse, City of Portland, seconded by Gregg Snyder, City of Hillsboro, provided the below motion via electronic document shared on the screen with committee members:

TPAC recommends to JPACT that they direct Metro staff to clearly frame that the Step 1.A. proposed bond scenario(s) does not represent a final package or a current endorsement but rather is an illustrative package of priority regional projects of the "up to" amount of bonding of \$84M identified to date on which to seek public comment as part of an overall RFFA package.

To ensure appropriate context for the public to provide comments, any communication should be inclusive of the following considerations and information (with additional refinement with partner input to ensure accuracy):

- 1) The proposed scenario offers reduced funding to all five project requests instead of fully funding any of them.
- 2) By not fully funding any of the requests, the Metro draft scenario creates risks for all the projects' ability to move forward as envisioned and additional time is needed to process those implications prior to forwarding a final proposed bond scenario to JPACT.
- 3) Include additional information about how the requested bond amount fits into each project's funding strategy, including what leverage and local funding is represented in each project proposal as a result of the bonding amount
- 4) Given the significant uncertainty about federal and state funding that could impact the implications of different funding levels to these packages, more information about the overall funding landscape is needed before a final preferred scenario is identified.

Jeff Owen commented his support for this motion moving forward.

Tara O'Brien, TriMet, stated that the motion under consideration prioritizes what we would want to see go to the public, specifically conveying significant delivery challenges. The funding amounts for TV Highway and 82nd Ave are not sufficient, and while it may not seem like significant cuts, it really could prevent us from delivering a minimal, viable transit project for the CIG program. She also noted the importance of informing the public what they would get with these investments. Additionally, she wanted to call attention that the action today does not mean we are endorsing these funding amounts because we do not support the funding amounts for

TV Highway and 82nd Avenue and that could pose significant challenges. With that, she wanted to go back to the potential to consider other scenarios. She stated her support for adding a new a line to the motion that JPACT consider a second illustrative scenario that shows higher funding levels for the FX project

AMENDMENT #1 TO MOTION: Tara O'Brien proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded, to add a line to the motion that JPACT consider a second illustrative scenario that shows higher funding levels for the FX project

Jeff Owen noted he understands the concern but does not think it is necessary in the motion today to speak to specifics of numbers as it will be added to JPACT.

Jessica Pelz stated her support for the amendment to the motion and they do not support the proposed package reducing the funding for TV Highway and would like to see a second scenario proposed.

Gregg Snyder, Cities of Washington County, noted his support for the amendment. He added that they were able to debrief with the TV Highway project team and they are unable to cut scope easily or simply. He added that underfunding all the projects creates risk in all the projects.

Eric Hesse requested clarification of Tara's amendment language. Tara responded that the amendment language proposed is:

We recommend JPACT consider a second illustrative scenarios that shows higher funding levels for the FX projects

Eric commented that from the City of Portland's perspective, the same types of considerations there are just articulated by my colleagues certainly apply to Montgomery Park Streetcar. He added that he would have difficulty supporting the amendment as written, as focused on FX projects, but could consider supporting an amendment that would reflect on the second illustrative scenario and indicate that all CIG projects would fit into that category.

AMENDMENT #1 TO MOTION: Tara withdrew her amendment to the motion.

AMENDMENT #2 TO MOTION: Tara proposed a new amendment, moved by Jay Higgins and seconded by Gregg Snyder.

We recommend JPACT consider a second illustrative scenario which increases the allocation amount to CIG candidate projects. (TV Hwy, 82nd Ave, Montgomery Park Streetcar)

Jeff Owen commented that the committee should have commonality around all five projects going into the next period without specific numbers and as such would not support the amendment.

Chris Ford inquired if the amount of the bond is set at this point and is there any relationship in terms of money between the proposed bond measure and the next round of step two funding. Grace responded that the maximum amount our bond can support while maintaining our program direction principles is \$84 million and it would have an immediate impact on the current step 2 allocation.

Allison Boyd, Multnomah County, expressed concern that the committee might be overstepping with this

amendment, as it within JPACTs rights to continue discussing what the package looks like, and that the committee doesn't need to be so specific in our recommendation to them.

Sarah Iannarone asked about clarification about the word "increases" in the amendment, as TriMet is asking to fully fund the FX projects. Tara responded that they are ok with the word "increases", recognizing that there will likely be some back and forth with different scenarios and that could look differently. She added that they would like to see both projects fully funded but acknowledge that there are other projects.

ACTION TAKEN ON AMENDMENT #2: With only 6 members voting in approval, the amendment failed.

Gregg Snyder noted his preference for a scenario that fully funds at least a few of the projects.

ACTION ON MOTION: With 6 members in favor of the motion, 2 opposed and 7 abstentions, the motion failed.

15 MINUTE BREAK

After reconvening from break, Ted Leybold, Metro, announced that Metro staff would reflect in the JPACT packet that TPAC considered the materials by Metro staff and was unable to achieve a consensus on a recommendation and staff would describe in the packet the conversation at the meeting today.

Jessica Pelz added that in the materials to JPACT, they would like to add that the public comment go forward without any dollar amounts associated with projects.

2028-30 REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUND STEP 2 – OUTCOMES EVALUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT DRAFT RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

Grace Cho and Jean Senechal Biggs, Metro staff, presented an overview (included as part of the meeting record) of bond scenarios and approach, program direction objectives, summary of input received over the past couple of months, implications and technical evaluation results.

Grace stated that organizations should reach out to her this month so it can be finalized by the end of March. She also requested that people specify whether they are reaching out about outcomes evaluations or project delivery risk assessment or both, so the right people are in the conversation.

DRAFT FY 2025-26 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Chair Kloster spoke about federal executive orders regarding language to be removed from federally approved projects and how this has impacted UPWP. He noted that John Mermin and other Metro staff have worked to remove these from the original copy that was provided to committee members.

John Mermin, Metro noted that the UPWP was sent to TPAC members and federal and state reviewers in late January for review. He noted that at this meeting he went over what the UPWP does, how it's laid out, described the process for how it's approved and what kind of feedback they're seeking from TPAC so that action can be taken the following month.

John asked committee members to provide him with any feedback this week, as the revised version

is being compiled to be federally approved soon.

Chris Ford urged TPAC members to advance the UPWP so that there would be no risk of missing out on federal funds.

Jessica Pelz, Washington County, asked whether local projects would be included/excluded. John responded that only projects that are federally funded will be included.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Kloster adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorian Campbell, TPAC Recorder
Dorian Campbell

Attachments to the Public Record, TPAC meeting, March 7, 2025

	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
*	Agenda	3/07/25	03/07/25 TPAC Meeting Agenda	030725-1
*	Document	2/28/25	TPAC Work program	030725-2
*	Memo	2/26/25	To: TPAC and Interested Parties From: Ken Lobeck Re: MTIP Monthly Submitted Amendments: March 2025 Report	030725-3
*	Memo	3/7/25	To: TPAC Members and Alternates From: Madeline Stele Re: Regional Barometer Retirement	030725-4
*	Document	2/7/25	2/7/25 TPAC meeting minutes	030725-5
*	Document		Resolution No 25-5473	030725-6
*	Document		Exhibit A to Resolution 25-5473	030725-7
*	Memo	2/26/25	To: TPAC From: Ken Lobeck Re: March 2025 MTIP Formal Amendment & Resolution 25-5473 Approval Request	030725-8
*	Document		Resolution No 25-5463	030725-9
*	Document		Exhibit A to Resolution 25-5463	030725-10
*	Document	11/20/24	Attachment 3 to Resolution 25-5463	030725-11
*	Document	1/6/25	Attachment 4 to Resolution 25-5463	030725-12
*	Document		Attachment 6 to Resolution 25-5463	030725-13
*	Memo	1/27/25	To: Grace Cho and Monica Krueger From: Russ Doubleday Re: Draft 2028-30 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation Risk Assessment	030725-14
*	Memo	1/26/05	To: TPAC and Interested Parties From: Ken Lobeck Re: I-5 Rose Quarter 2025 MTIP Formal Amendment & Resolution 25-5463 Amendment Approval Process	030725-15
*	Document		Attachment 1: Rose Quarter STIP Programming Summary	030725-16
*	Document	2/28/25	Performance Assessment Evaluation Summary	030725-17
*	Memo	2/28/25	To: TPAC and interested parties From: John Mermin Re: 2025-26 Draft UPWP	030725-18
*	Report	Jan. 2025	2025-26 UPWP – Discussion Draft	030725-19

**	Document	3/3/25	Updated 3/7/25 TPAC Agenda	030725-20
**	Presentation	3/7/25	March 2025 Regular Formal MTIP Amendment	030725-21
**	Presentation	2/1 – 3/5	Traffic deaths	030725-22
**	Presentation		Transit Minute	030725-23
**	Presentation Slide		2025 SS4A Metro Partners Interest Survey	030725-24
**	Presentation	3/7/25	March 2025 Regular Formal MTIP Amendment	030725-25
**	Presentation	3/7/25	I-5 Rose Quarter Formal MTIP Amendment Approval Request	030725-26
**	Presentation	3/7/25	2028-30 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation	030725-27
**	Document		Eric Hesse Amendment	030725-28
**	Document		Staff edits of committee discussion on Eric Hesse amendment	030725-29
**	Memo	2/28/25	To: TPAC From: Grace Cho, Jake Lovell, Jean Senechal Biggs Re: 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Step 2 Outcomes Evaluation and Project Delivery Risk Assessment Draft Results	030725-30
**	Document	March 2025	Attachment 1: 28-30 Regional Flexible Funds Step 2 outcomes Evaluation	030725-31
**	Document		Appendix 1: 28-30 Regional Flexible Funds Step 2 outcomes Evaluation All Applications Ratings Summary	030725-32
**	Document	3/3/25	Attachment 2: 28-30 RFFA Step 2 Technical Evaluations	030725-33
**	Presentation	3/7/25	2025-26 UPWP	030725-34
**	Document	3/7/25	TPAC meeting chat record	030725-35

* Included in meeting notice packet

** Distributed after meeting notice packet or presented at meeting