

Growing Public Trust | Innovation Team overview | August 4, 2015

How can Metro create meaningful relationships and build trust with communities that have been historically underrepresented in the decision-making process?

The Oregon Innovation Award

In April 2015, Metro and 1000 Friends of Oregon received the Portland State University Center for Public Service's inaugural Oregon Innovation Award for a proposal to co-create an innovative approach for inclusive public engagement and decision making. The award provides 1,000 hours of consultation and facilitation from the Center's faculty and staff, as well as a Hatfield Fellow who will support the work through December 31, 2015.

What will the innovative approach look like?

The approach aims to better engage underrepresented communities in Metro's decision-making process and build collaborative, mutually-beneficial relationships that generate trust.

Some key components of the approach will include:

- A mechanism for assessing the level, type, frequency and duration of engagement sought by community-based organizations
- A method for identifying indicators to measure progress in engaging historically underrepresented communities in decision making
- A strategy for building new and strengthening existing relationships through community-specific outreach about the regional decision-making process

Who's involved?

The Innovation Team leading this effort is comprised of representatives from Metro, the Center for Public Service and 1000 Friends of Oregon. The team is reaching out to community organizers and advocates, local jurisdictions, and community members in a variety of ways to get their input and inform the work.

Where are we in the process?

We are currently in the scoping and research phase of the process. The August 4 meeting is our third innovation team meeting where we will unpack Metro's decision-making process and brainstorm opportunities for increasing access for underrepresented communities. This discussion will help inform our challenge statement and identify opportunities to make the decision-making process more inclusive and transparent. Our visioning session is being scheduled for the end of August.

What's the timeline?

May- August	Phase I: project scoping and research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form a leadership team and a strategy for gathering input from Metro staff, local jurisdictions, and community advocates• Develop a statement of the challenge that the approach aims to address• Develop a shared vision statement• Review relevant literature and public/nonprofit efforts
September- October	Phase II: project design <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify gaps in the approach• Develop each component of the approach• Solicit feedback and guidance from advisory committees
November- December	Phase III: solicit feedback and refine the approach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile all of the components into a working draft of the approach• Solicit and incorporate feedback iteratively
Early 2016	Phase IV: pilot and evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify a project within Metro or the community to evaluate the approach• Create a strategy for evaluation• Pilot the project• Report back to everyone involved throughout the process

For more information about this work, please contact:

Erin Pidot, Hatfield Fellow, Metro
erin.pidot@oregonmetro.gov

Sam Diaz, Community Engagement Coordinator 1000 Friends of Oregon
sam@friends.org

Peggy Morell, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Metro
peggy.morell@oregonmetro.org