

# **CRITICAL ISSUES AND TOWARD A PROBLEM STATEMENT**

**Transfer System Task Force  
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## HEARD LAST TIME

Your priorities

- Tonnage caps
- Public-private roles
- Problem statement

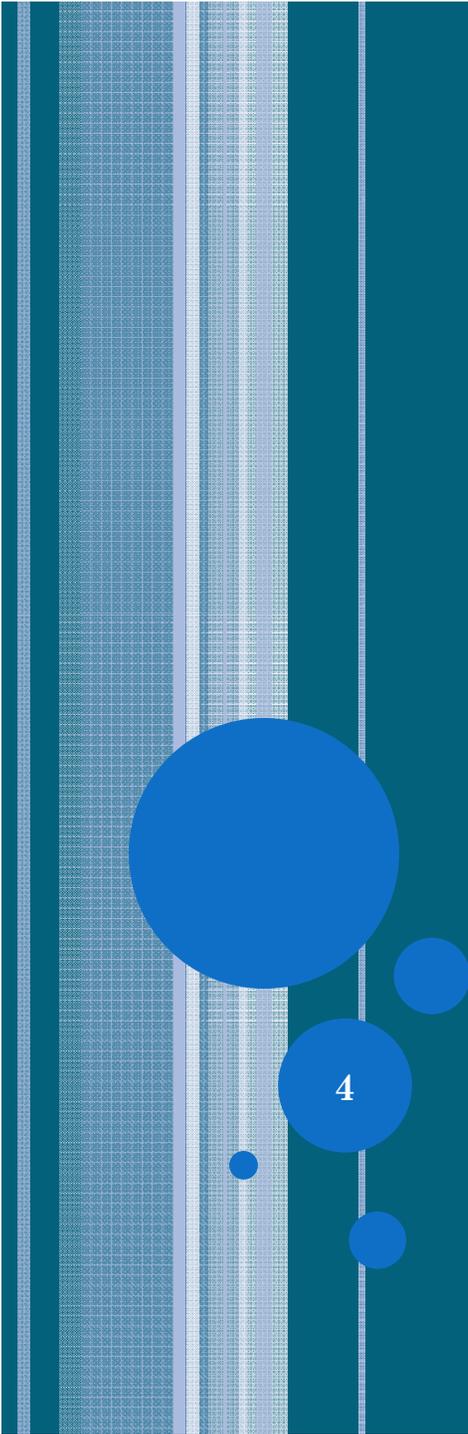
# TODAY

- Situation assessment – overview

Leading toward *(today & next meeting)*:

- Problem statement
- Drill-down into top critical issues

Open discussion throughout



# SITUATION ASSESSMENT AN OVERVIEW

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# DISCLAIMER

The issues on the following slides are extracted from three major stakeholder assessments of the disposal system that Metro conducted between 2006 and 2014, together with a number of smaller, more focused studies.

Comments came from a wide range of stakeholders who work within the local disposal system, and are acknowledged experts in solid waste.

Stakeholders were not chosen by scientific sampling. Therefore the comments are not necessarily representative of the full universe of stakeholders. They do, however, represent issues expressed by more than one stakeholder in more than one setting over time.

Metro's consultants have advised that:

- ❑ Many opinions are strongly held, with stakeholders relying on differing versions of history and Metro policy decisions.
- ❑ Perspectives on the current system differ based on the type of firm represented (vertically integrated, partially integrated, independent) and between private and public sector stakeholders.
- ❑ While having similar opinions on some issues, vertically integrated and non-vertically integrated companies hold sharply different viewpoints on a number of key aspects of the transfer system.

For these reasons, the following comments reflect a mix of fact, perception, and opinion – but nonetheless provide important source of information for identifying critical issues that the Transfer System Project should address.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT  
NEXT STEPS

**A Situation Assessment**  
identifies  
**Critical Issues**  
and feeds into the  
**Problem Statement**

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

## GENERAL

- System is working reasonably well
- More-than-enough wet waste transfer capacity; over 100 years of landfill capacity
- Capacity situation unclear for other uses; *e.g., material recovery, food scraps transfer, self haul*
- Collection route efficiencies usually trump tip fees; Traffic congestion a big concern
- The cost to dispose should be the same everywhere
- This region lagging in new waste management technologies

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

## TONNAGE CAPS

### ○ Pro

- Dampen market concentration
- Reduce impact on host community
- “Limit vertically integrated firms from unfairly directing waste to own facilities”

### ○ Con

- Increase costs if hauler cannot use closest facility
- Prevent economic utilization of capacity
- Reduce efficiency of collection

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

## VERTICAL INTEGRATION

Sharp division between vertically integrated and independent firms

- Vertically integrated
  - Market should determine location, capacity, function at facilities
- Independent
  - Regional oversight needed to ensure appropriate balance of location, capacity, functions
- Vertical integration *vs.* independence will continue to be an issue on many fronts

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

## SELF HAUL

Relation to this project:

*self haul competes for transfer space*

- Effects of self haul
  - Removes tons from collection system
  - Extra traffic on the road
  - Provides consumers with choice
- Why do we have self haul?
  - Service gap at curb?
  - Self haul prices too low? Too convenient?
  - Other?

## SITUATION ASSESSMENT

# LOOKING FORWARD: FOOD SCRAPS

- Recovery of food scraps
  - Essential for meeting recovery goals
  - Changes character of remaining waste: opportunity for dry waste recovery and alternative technologies
  
- Infrastructure needed
  - Transfer capacity
  - Processing capacity

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Cheap landfilling is big economic barrier to higher recovery and alternative technologies
- Caution against big long-term disposal commitments
- Stronger policy interventions will be needed

## SITUATION ASSESSMENT

# FEATURES TO RETAIN IN THE FUTURE

- Commitment to recycling and recovery
- Positive public perception
- Environmentally sound and cost effective service
- Toxics reduction
- Geographic distribution of transfer services
- Local government-Metro-DEQ cooperation

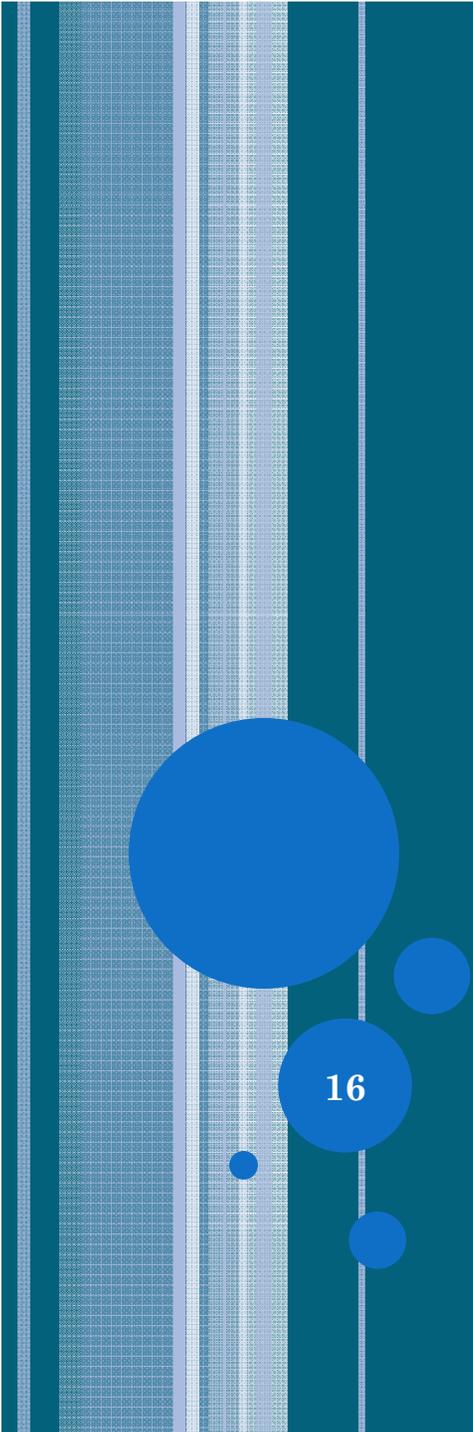
## SITUATION ASSESSMENT

### FEATURES TO IMPROVE OR ADD

- Recycling and recovery the principal goal
- Clarity on public and private roles
- Market for transfer services allowed to function better
- As a principle, consider incentives for doing the right thing before regulatory prohibition
- Metro regulation – purpose and clarity
- Predictability and transparency of rates

# SITUATION ASSESSMENT

**Anything else to add  
at this time?**

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# NEXT MEETING: TOWARD A PROBLEM STATEMENT, AND TOP CRITICAL ISSUES

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