



# Public Involvement Summary Report

**Metro Transfer Station - West**

January 2021

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## OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Through its role in planning, managing and overseeing the regional garbage and recycling system, Metro seeks to meet the needs of a growing population in western Washington County by evaluating whether to build a public multi-use modern transfer center to manage garbage, recyclables, household hazardous waste and more. This modern facility could also provide community services like waste reduction education, expanded recycling options, or public art.

Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan, created through extensive and collaborative community engagement work between 2017 and 2019 (adopted January 2019 by Metro Council), evaluates the feasibility of establishing a publicly owned garbage transfer facility in Washington County. The inclusion of this action reflected strong input from local governments in the western part of the county and community members that such a facility was needed in order to provide garbage and recycling related services that were lacking in that part of the region and to address high disposal rates charged by private facilities in the area.

The initial determinants for establishing whether a facility is feasible are the community's interest in, and acceptance of, such an operation. Because of the shortage of available industrial land in western Washington County, Metro's engagement with community ran simultaneously with acquiring an option to purchase a specific parcel of land and the due diligence on that property. This document summarizes the community engagement efforts and public input received between initiations of stakeholder engagement between October 2019 through November 23, 2020. The focus of this initial phase of engagement, and the subject of this report, is to understand the level of support that nearby communities and key stakeholder groups would have for a potential new recycling and transfer center to be sited at a particular parcel in Cornelius. This first phase of engagement will inform Metro Council's decision in early February 2021 on whether to buy the parcel. If Metro purchases the property, it will undertake a second engagement process to reach more community members and inform future design and construction phases of the project.

### Equity Approach

The engagement planning and activities are based on the goals and objectives outlined in [Metro's Strategic plan to advance equity, diversity and inclusion](#), the [Property and Environmental Services' Diversity, Racial Equity and Inclusion Work Plan](#), and the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#). (See [Appendix](#) for detailed information).

Below is a summary of the ways in which Metro advanced racial equity goals through engagement:

- Partnered with culturally based organization(s) to be an ambassador on behalf of communities of color prioritizing adults and youth living in Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro
- American Sign Language Interpretation for public webinars
- The Latino/a/x community was prioritized in outreach, recruitment and selection for engagement activities through bilingual online and mailed materials, interpretation services and communication tactics

- Reduction of barriers to participation by providing inclusive and safe meeting environment (virtual), flexible meeting schedules, stipends to reduce burden of participating including coverage of childcare and food needs, provision of devices and technological training as needed
- Leadership development opportunities through education about the solid waste system and government decision-making
- Meaningfully engage with youth and adults of color to ensure their voice and input is meaningfully incorporated into decision-making and future planning of the services and operations of a future facility
- Opportunities to engage in a more cultural relevant way, including in-person, at community events or farmers markets, religious institutions or community gathering spaces were impeded by the COVID Pandemic social distancing restrictions for Metro staff

### COVID 19 Pandemic

Engagement planning work for this phase was completed in the Winter of 2019 before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety measures led to changes in operations for Metro staff as well as the rest of our communities. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 the project team had to radically alter its approach to engagement to ensure the safety of Metro employees and community members.

As a result, all in person engagement activities were canceled, and staff had to rapidly develop a virtual engagement plan. Health and safety preventative measures in response to COVID-19 both delayed and severely limited the ability of staff to conduct engagement activities. Due to the fiscal impacts of COVID-19, Metro had many staff reductions and furloughs that impacted its ability to fully engage the community.

Despite these very real impacts, Metro was able to complete an engagement process that included over 30 presentations to local government staff and elected bodies, public forums, industry and private businesses. Metro also conducted an online survey that reached over 800 people and facilitated seven meetings of a Community Advisory Group made up of residents of Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro. This work was supported by storytelling and social media posts on Facebook and Instagram, mailings to Cornelius residents and businesses with project information, as well as a project website to transparently share project materials, documents, and updates. This activity resulted in two earned media articles in local news publications (Pamplin Media Group).

## Desired Outcomes of Community Outreach

Primary **desired outcomes** were:

- Engage as many community members, decision-makers and other stakeholder as possible to identify the level of support for the project from people in the western part of the Metro region.
- Identify types of services, including community amenities, about which people would be interested in or excited.
- Identify concerns people have about this potential project.
- Identify any communities of color and people with low income that may be potentially affected.

Secondary desired outcomes:

- People of **Cornelius, Forest Grove** and **Hillsboro** are informed about the proposed project and upcoming decision.
- Increase public participation in public webinar sessions or project website visits.

## Community Engagement Approach

Community engagement is one part of a broader project management plan to acquire property, engage the community, conduct due diligence, design, construct, and plan for operation of a new transfer facility. Community engagement is intended to:

- Be integral to the advancement of racial equity.
- Inform Metro Council's decision-making about the location of the project.
- Inform Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Department's decision-making about programming, design and services of the project.
- Ensure the proposed facility will be an asset to Cornelius, Forest Grove and Washington County.
- Engage potentially affected individuals, while prioritizing participation from people historically excluded from government decision-making and the garbage and recycling system.
- Eventually lead to a formalized relationship between Metro and the community through instruments such as a Good Neighbor Agreement or Community Benefits Agreement.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Partnership with Centro Cultural

Metro partnered with a Community Based Organization, Centro Cultural of Washington County, to advance racial equity and apply an environmental justice lens. Centro Cultural was integral to the community engagement to date through activities including reviewing and providing input on the

community engagement plan and activities; recruiting members, planning and facilitating the Community Advisory Group and webinars; spreading project information to community members, including the opportunity to participate in the community survey.

### **About Centro Cultural of Washington County**

Centro Cultural has served the Latino community since 1972. It was founded by a group of migrant families to provide new immigrants a place where they could feel safe and closer to home. For almost fifty years, this nonprofit organization has provided support and opportunities for growth and empowerment to members of historically marginalized communities (HMC) in Washington County. Centro has changed many lives, through the development of partnerships and the creation of programs accessible to all members of the community. These programs provide opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and empowerment, which reflect the mission of this organization and its commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. Equitable, inclusive, and meaningful community engagement practices are a significant component of the work at Centro Cultural. This work is done by the Community Partnerships and Advocacy Team, whose most important task is to bring the voices of the community to the decision making process.

### **Priority Audiences**

Driven by Metro’s regional plan with focus on racial equity, priority audiences are marginalized communities and those highly impacted by project; including Latinx communities in Cornelius, Forest Grove and Hillsboro because of their proximity to the site.

While not intended to produce statistically significant results, findings from community engagement activities help Metro understand community members’ needs, concerns and level of support for the potential waste transfer facility.

### **Summary of Outreach Activities**

Metro, in partnership with Centro Cultural, primarily used the following outreach activities to inform and gather input from community members locally, across Washington County, and the Portland Metro Region. **A full list of stakeholder engagements can be found in the [Appendix](#).**

- Community Advisory Group
- Survey
- Webinars

## FINDINGS AND RESULTS

### Key findings summary

- Metro focused on elevating voices that have historically not been centered in decisions about siting location, design, and services for transfer facilities.
- Community members are glad to be involved and to have the opportunity to participate through a transparent and accountable process.
- There is an all-around curiosity about the project, its potential impact on the communities, and how Metro would address community concerns. Although many audiences reached initially reacted to the project with some skepticism, there is general support for the project from neighboring businesses, some residents, and the Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Washington County governments. This generalized support is a result of:
  - Proven transparency of the entire process
  - Proactive and continuous informative efforts through outreach
  - Reducing/eliminating barriers (technological, language, scheduling) to increase participation of highly impacted communities and stakeholders that have been welcomed to foster positive conversations
  - A visit to King County allowed community members to witness a successful example and to interact with those responsible of the operations as well as neighbors
- Potential benefits identified by nearby community members:
  - Job creation and positive economic benefits for the host community
  - Alignment with the host city's economic development goals
  - Community Enhancement Grant funds to benefit host community (Cornelius)
  - Convenient and expanded waste transfer and recycling services that would be provided
  - Education and learning opportunities for the community
  - Development attracted to the region from the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art facility
- Concerns expressed by community members near the proposed property:
  - Overall cost of any new facility and impacts on rates paid both at transfer stations and at the curb (for collection services)
  - Impacts on the immediate surrounding community include odors, noise, and in particular potential traffic impacts
  - Loss of Community Enhancement Grant benefits (Forest Grove)
  - Increased traffic if road extension connects Forest Grove/Cornelius industrial areas
- Concerns expressed by City of Sherwood
  - The City of Sherwood expressed concerns about potential cost of building a new transfer station and potential impacts on rates, as well as concerns about impacts to commercial tonnage allocations.
- Concerns expressed by private industry stakeholders:
  - Garbage and recycling private industry stakeholders, including private transfer station operators and hauling companies, have remained attentive at the prospect of the project, especially those with operations in western Washington County

- One private transfer station operator, Pride Disposal in Sherwood, has voiced concerns and opposition, in particular to Metro providing commercial wet waste tonnage transfer as this would have a direct impact on their business
- Private industry leaders expressed concerns regarding impacts a new transfer station would have on the existing Forest Grove Transfer Station operated by Waste Management
- Some private industry stakeholders expressed that the current waste system has sufficient capacity to handle the commercially collected waste of the region and adding a new transfer station could impact future financial tonnage allocations
- Others engaged through the Washington County Hauler’s Association or the Regional Waste Advisory Committee have not expressed outright support or opposition
- The (Community Advisory Group in particular) are becoming knowledgeable about the topic and sharing with others what they learn.
- Stakeholders also expressed concerns that some community members who oppose the project lack sufficient information.
- Several Community Advisory Group members have become voluntary advocates, champions of the new transfer station project, sharing what they learn.
- They want the project to succeed and for their community to be well informed. However, the CAG group also wants Metro to be accountable and transparent, there is no rubber stamp of approval.
- Participants from outreach activities insist on the importance of making the information public and readily available so as many people as possible can learn about the project and the details.

## **Community Advisory Group**

### **Role of the Community Advisory Group**

The advisory group consists of twelve local community members representing Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro. They represent diverse viewpoints and experiences including three youth under the age of 18. The makeup of the group includes six women, three men (three did not identify their gender), nine members who identify as Latinx/o/a or Hispanic, three who identify as White, ages range between 16 to 70, one person expressed living with a disability, their incomes range from “Less than \$29,000 up to \$74,000, four English language learners, and one person identifies as part of the LGBT2Q+ community. Additionally, eight of the selected members said they had visited a Metro Transfer Station at least twice in the last 12 months.

The recruitment period for the group was open for six weeks including an extension during the COVID pandemic, and outreach included emails, bilingual mailed postcards to people within .5 miles of the proposed site, social media posts on Facebook and Instagram, word of mouth and project website by both Metro and Centro Cultural.

CAG Demographics		
<b>Gender identity</b> Women → 6 Men → 3 No answer → 3 LGBT2Q → 3	<b>Income</b> Less than \$29,000 → 3 \$30,000 to \$49,999 → 4 \$50,000 to \$74,999 → 2 \$100,000+ → 0 no answer → 3	<b>Location</b> Cornelius → 4 Forest Grove → 4 Hillsboro → 3
<b>Age Groups (16-80)</b> Under 18 → 3 25-34 → 1 35-44 → 2 45-54 → 3 55-64 → 1 65+ → 1 n/a → 1	<b>Metro TS customer?</b> yes (2+ trips) → 8 No → 2 Other → 2  <b>Disability</b> Self-identified as a person living with disability → 1	<b>Race/Ethnicity</b> White → 3 Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Afro-Latino → 9

In partnership with Centro Cultural, Metro convened the Cornelius Community Advisory Group (CAG) to weigh in on the proposed recycling and transfer center during its first phase. The role of the advisory group is to help inform Metro about:

- 1) The level of support there is for the proposed project in Cornelius.
- 2) Challenges and opportunities of the location.
- 3) The community-centered features and services that Metro could consider incorporating into the project.

## Community Advisory Group meetings

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Meeting #1	August 11, 2020
Meeting #2	August 25, 2020
Meeting #3	September 22, 2020
Meeting #4	October 06, 2020
Meeting #5	October 20, 2020
Meeting #6	November 17, 2020
Meeting #7	December 15, 2020

### **Feedback Received**

Members of the CAG provided feedback based on information presented at committee meetings and research they did on their own.

- Several members expressed a need for Metro to educate community members on recyclable and hazardous materials as well as multilingual education in order to fully utilize a new facility if a new facility was built.
- Members expressed concerns about increased traffic and the location of the facility as a potential barrier to people who lack transportation.
- They also mentioned that due to the pandemic, restrictions for waste collecting sites and events are barriers to people who do not live near a transfer station.
- Other concerns include Metro's commitment to providing preventative and proactive mitigation strategies for nuisances such as pests, rodents, dust, noise, and smell.
- CAG members were interested in the opportunity to make the facility ecofriendly through different methods such as a rainwater collecting system or energy efficient technology.
- They also expressed interest in other processes or aspects of the project such as design, community amenities, technology, and job creation.
- Many of the members had questions about materials that are difficult to recycle and appreciated the educational information presented at committee meetings.
- The group expressed concerns about getting accurate information out to other community members in Cornelius and Forest Grove who may be impacted. Some CAG members were concerned about misinformation about the proposal causing opposition in their community.
- There was curiosity and concern from some members of the group about Metro's decision to propose a new recycling and waste transfer facility in a community that has high percentage of potentially vulnerable populations including a population of about 50% people of color, the majority being Latinx/o/a or Hispanic folks, and people living with low incomes. CAG members

expressed a need for Metro to demonstrate a commitment to adopt Environmental Justice principles as well as a commitment to education, to accountability in community engagement and to reducing environmental impacts.

- Despite their expressed concerns, when asked if they support this project coming to their community at North Fourth and Holladay Street, CAG members said they do support the project as proposed. One member noted that the location was a good fit for this type of project, but they are concerned about traffic since they live within a half mile of the proposed site.
- Most members expressed excitement about having accessible self-haul services that Metro offers such as recycling, and disposal of things that are hard to dispose of, (like electronics, mattresses or medical sharps). The potential of an education room as well as living-wage jobs from this project are also exciting to the group. CAG members are interested in Metro providing ongoing education by partnering with local schools.

## Survey

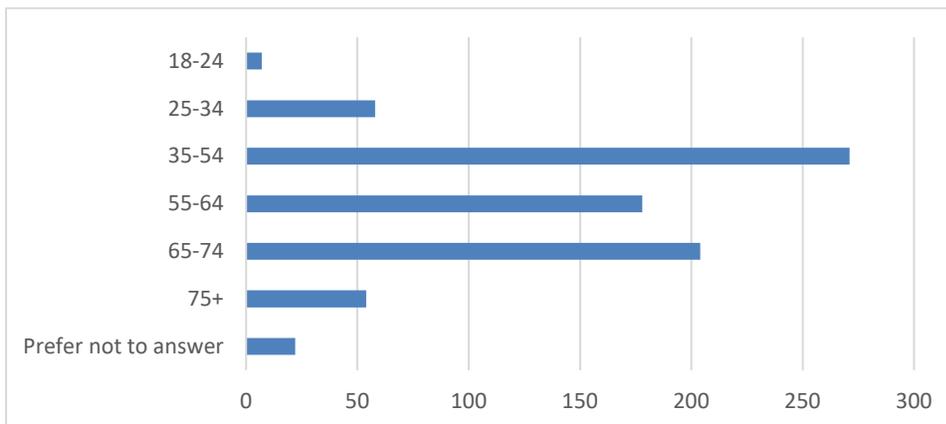
### Survey Reach and Demographics

Metro conducted an online survey with the intent to supplement the feedback received through meetings and other direct engagements. The survey was available to the general public from October 26 to November 15, 2020 through the project website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/future-metro-west-recycling-and-transfer-center](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/future-metro-west-recycling-and-transfer-center).

The survey was available in Spanish and English and was advertised through project emails, Instagram, storytelling on Metro News, Washington County newsletters, public webinar presentations that were live streamed on Facebook, and shared on Facebook by Metro and Centro Cultural. Survey respondents self-selected their participation and survey results are not intended to be statistically valid.

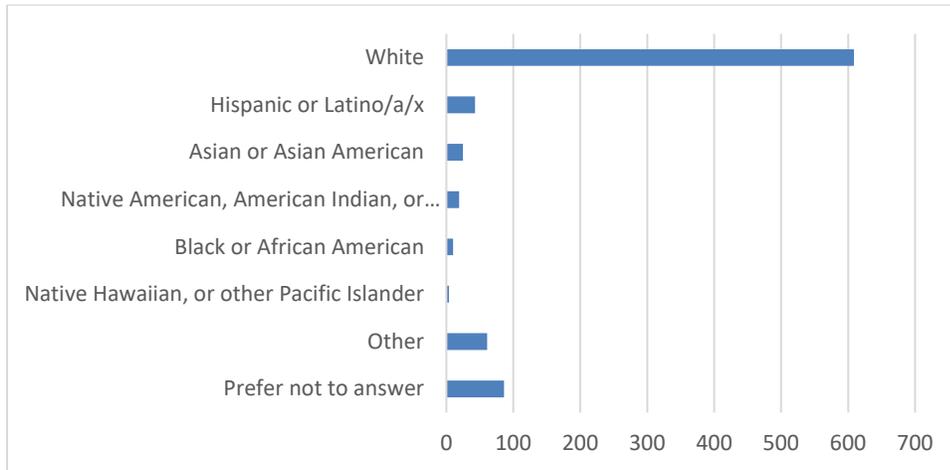
A total of 830 people answered at least one survey question for this survey. The number of responses to individual questions varied because survey participants were able to answer as many or as few questions as they chose. All graphs reflect the total number of responses to each individual question.

### Respondent's Age (n=794)



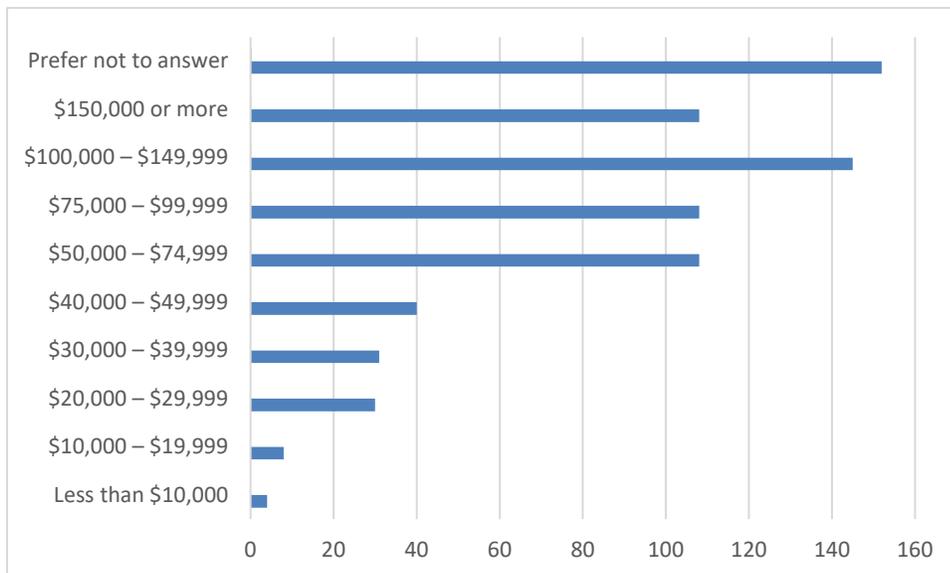
	Count	%
<b>18-24</b>	7	1%
<b>25-34</b>	58	7%
<b>35-54</b>	271	34%
<b>55-64</b>	178	22%
<b>65-74</b>	204	26%
<b>75+</b>	54	7%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	22	3%

**Race/ethnicity (n=830)**



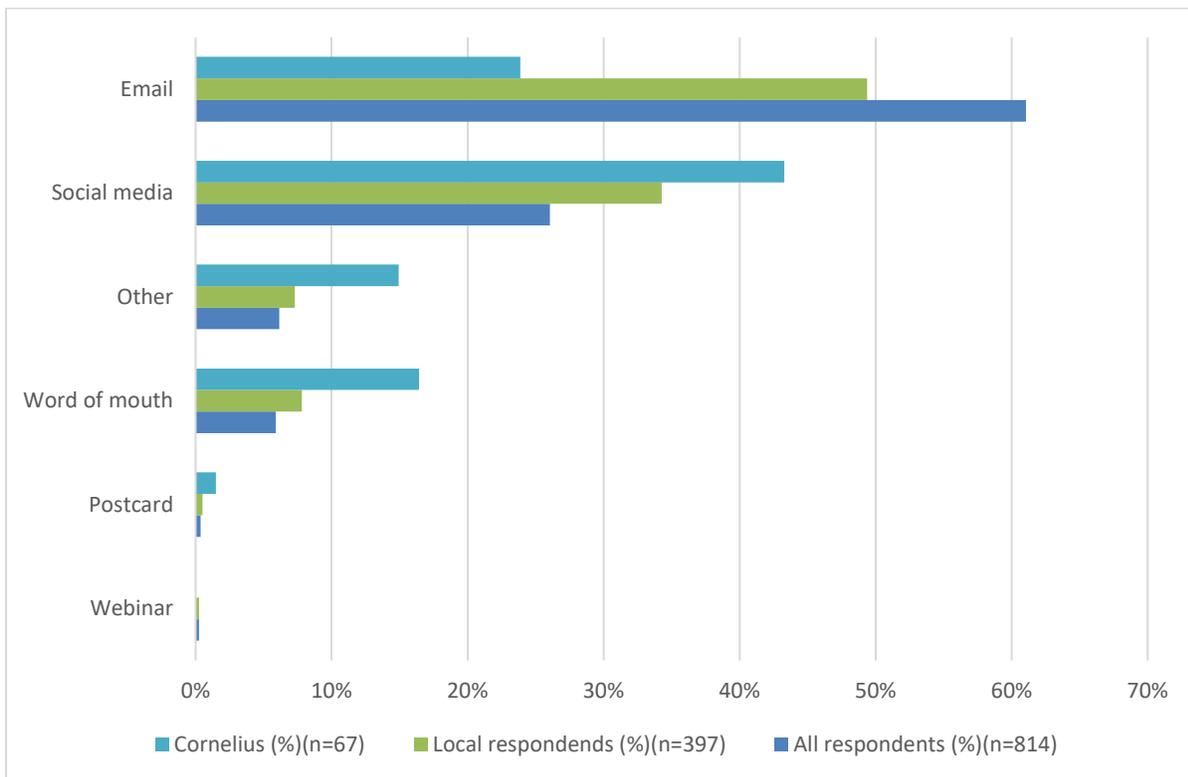
Race/ethnicity	Count	%
<b>White</b>	609	71%
<b>Hispanic or Latino/a/x</b>	43	5%
<b>Asian or Asian American</b>	25	3%
<b>Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native</b>	19	2%
<b>Black or African American</b>	10	1%
<b>Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander</b>	4	0%
<b>Other</b>	61	7%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	86	10%

**Annual income (n=734)**



Annual income	Count	%
Less than \$10,000	4	1%
\$10,000 – \$19,999	8	1%
\$20,000 – \$29,999	30	4%
\$30,000 – \$39,999	31	4%
\$40,000 – \$49,999	40	5%
\$50,000 – \$74,999	108	15%
\$75,000 – \$99,999	108	15%
\$100,000 – \$149,999	145	20%
\$150,000 or more	108	15%
Prefer not to answer	152	21%

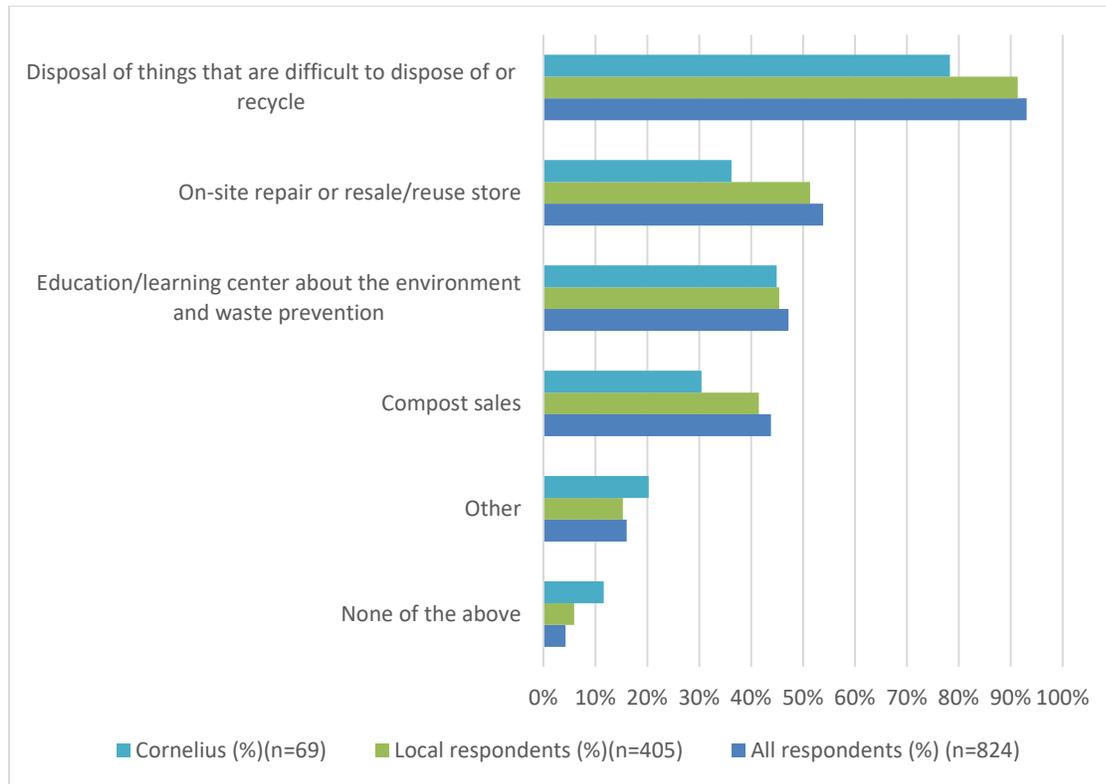
**Question #14 - How did you hear about this survey?**



## Survey Results

Results for all non-demographic questions are summarized below. Because proximity to the potential location of the Metro West recycling and transfer center is a priority audience, we have identified answers from “local respondents” as those received from residents in Zip codes that largely encompass the closest communities to the proposed site, including the cities of Cornelius, Forest Grove and Hillsboro.

### Question #3 - What, if any, expanded services would you like a new recycling and transfer center to offer?



Responses to the question about desired services from local survey respondents closely match those for all respondents. Over 90 percent of the 824 respondents for this question said they would like a new recycling and transfer center to dispose of things that are difficult to dispose of or recycle such as appliances, mattresses, Styrofoam, medical sharps, etc.

Over 50 percent said they would like an on-site repair or resale/reuse store.

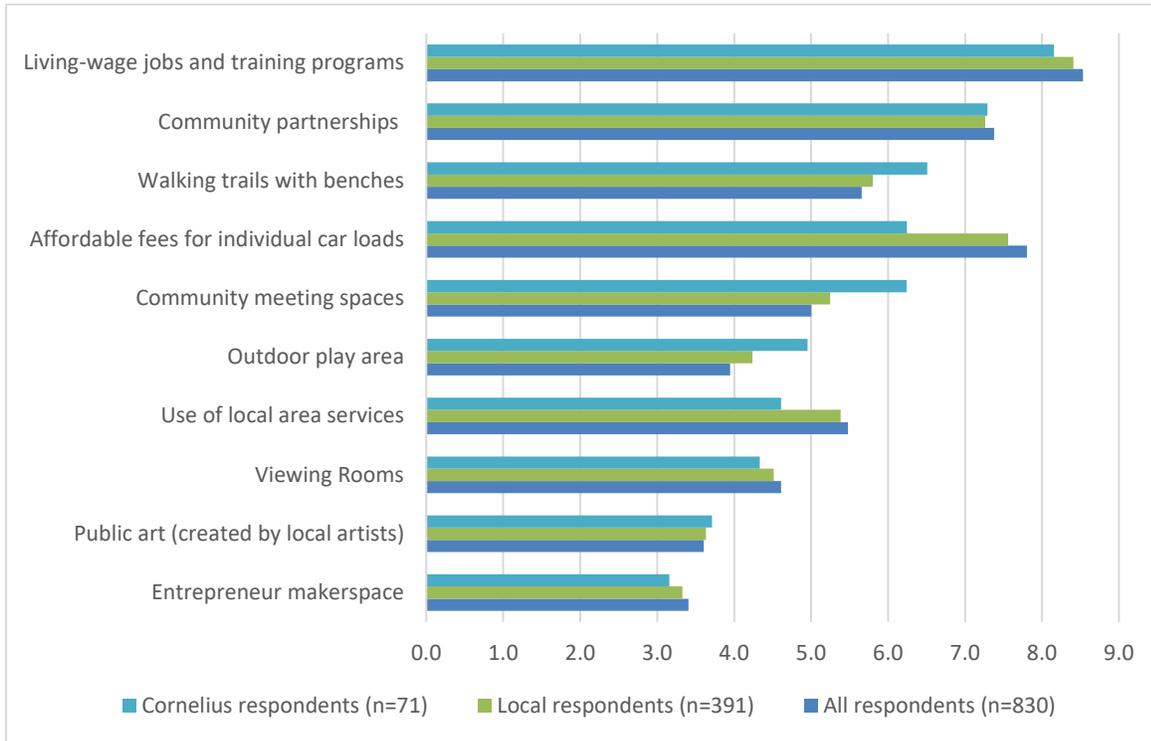
Over 40% asked for an education/learning center about the environment and waste prevention and/or compost sales to be available on site.

16% of people specified something else. Their common themes were:

- Many respondents requested recycling for other specific items that are difficult to recycle such as all plastics, electronics, batteries, and more.

- Multiple respondents requested compost collection for multi-family housing residents.
- Multiple respondents asked for cheaper recycling options.
- Some respondents asked for sales of Metro products like paint and compost bins.

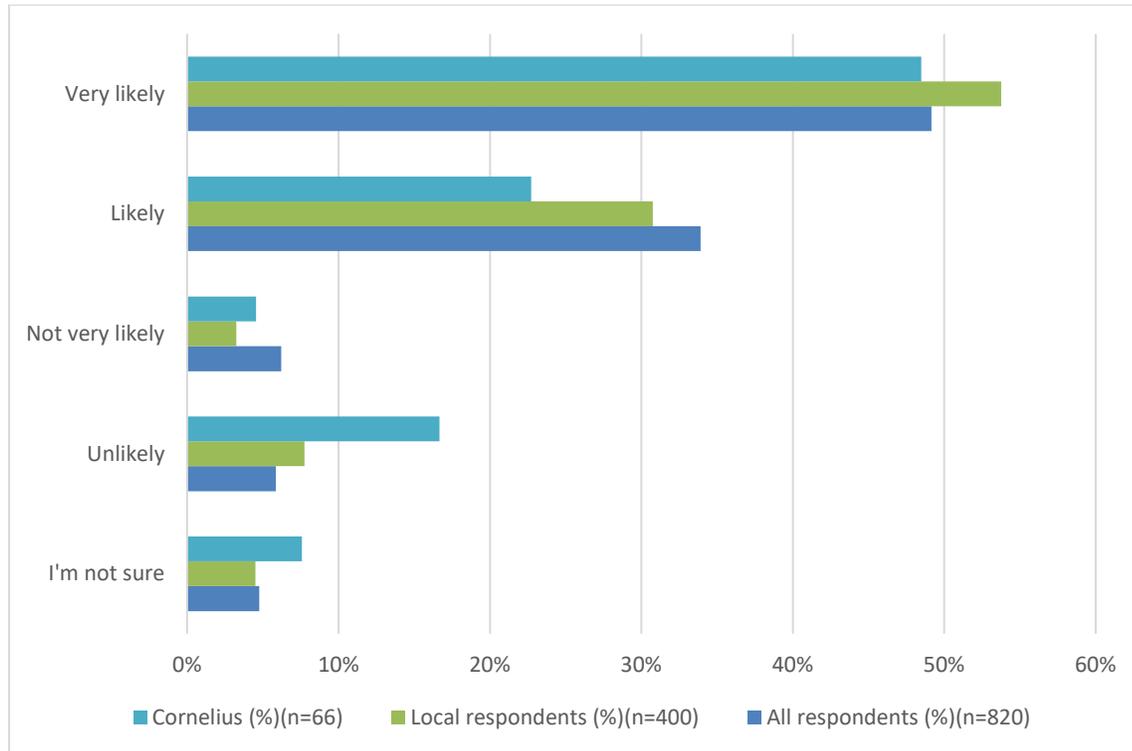
**Question #4 - Which of these potential community benefits do you value most?**



Respondents were asked to rank 10 potential community benefits from most to least important.

Input from local survey respondents on which potential community benefits are most valued closely matched that of all respondents with the most valued benefits of living-wage jobs and training programs, affordable fees for individual car loads, and community partnerships ranked highest. Benefits including an entrepreneur makerspace, public art and an outdoor play area were ranked lowest by both local and all survey respondents.

### Question #5 - How likely are you to use such a facility?



73% of the 820 respondents who answered the question said they would either be very likely or likely to use the facility.

12% of respondents said they are not very likely or unlikely to use the facility.

### Question #6 - Do you have concerns about having a transfer center in your community?

Of the total comments (162) received for this question, about 26% of respondents indicated specific concerns related to the proposal. The most common themes in responses were concerns related to odor from the facility, traffic and the proposed location of the transfer station.

Many respondents expressed concern about the transfer facility being located in Cornelius closely to residential areas and having negative impacts to property values, increased traffic on surface streets, and smell. Other areas suggested for the facility were in Hillsboro and Beaverton. Other respondents commented on the importance of having a transfer station that is centrally located and accessible by active transportation.

Other responses included:

- Concerns about noise, dust and pests
- Safety concerns related to hazardous materials and public health
- Environmental impact of the facility and responsible waste management systems
- Concerns about appearance, design and debris or litter

- Concerns about cost to build and maintain the facility as well increased taxes
- Affordability of services
- Education related to the environment, waste prevention, and recycling

Responses from local residents had no difference in comment themes.

**Question #7 - Are there specific neighborhoods, businesses or communities that you are concerned might be impacted by this project at this location?**

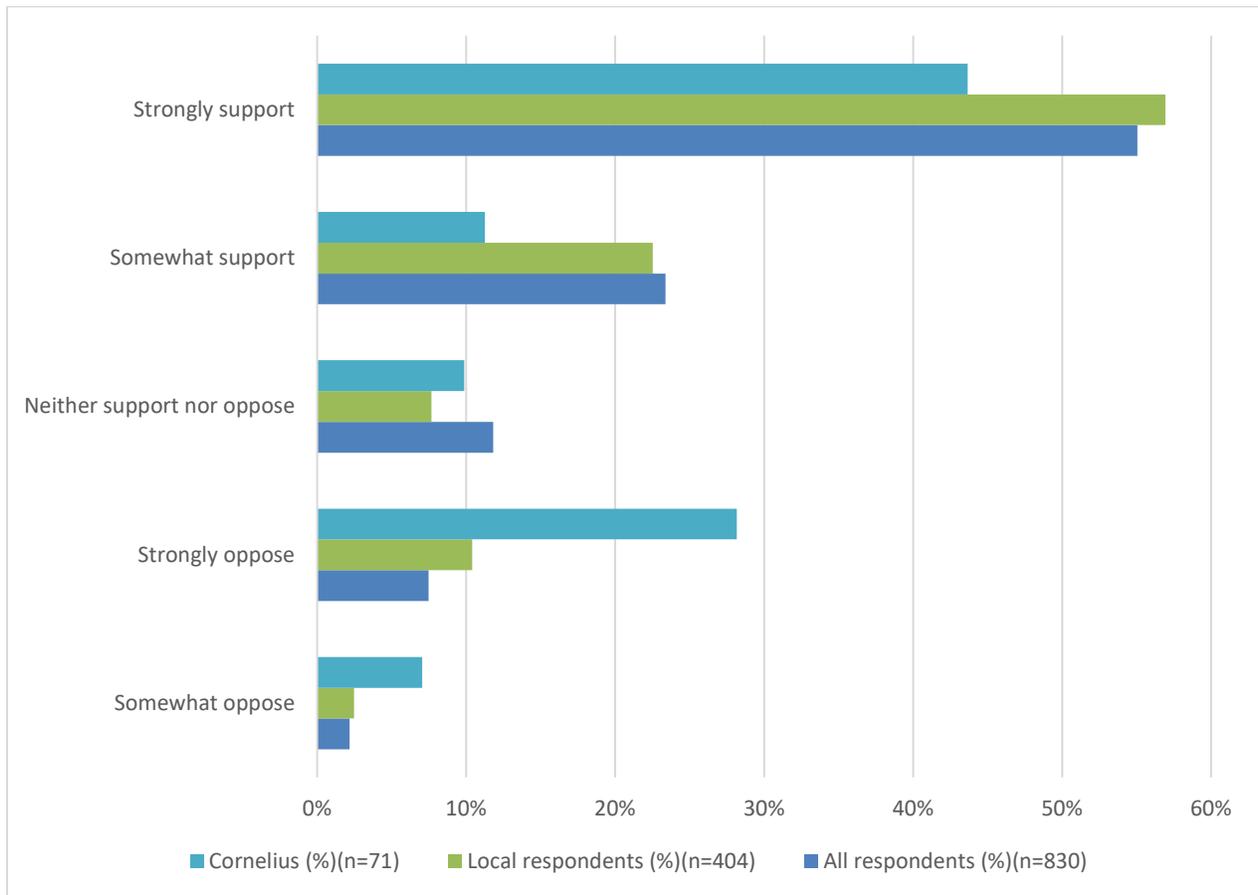
Of the 814 total survey responses, about 15% indicated specific neighborhoods, businesses or communities they thought might be impacted. Respondents' most common responses identified **nearby residents, roadway users in Cornelius, and nearby businesses** as those they are concerned might be impacted by this project at the location.

Respondents identified specific nearby residents including those who live in manufactured/mobile home communities near the site. Nearby businesses identified in the responses include Walmart and New Season Foods (not New Seasons grocery store chain) along with agricultural businesses in the area and downtown Cornelius. Competitors of a potential transfer station, including S&H Landscape, Evergreen Disposal and Recycling, and Waste Management along with other private waste haulers where also identified by respondents.

Other responses included:

- Black, Indigenous and people of color and low-income residents who some respondents said tend to be disproportionately impacted by infrastructure projects
- Property owners who might be impacted by lower property values
- Schools, particularly Cornelius Elementary School
- Nearby organizations serving the community including Centro Cultural and Virginia Garcia Health Center
- Users of nearby natural areas
- Businesses and residents along routes that would experience increased truck traffic
- Those impacted by noise, air pollution
- Ratepayers

**Question #8 - In December 2020, the Metro Council will decide whether or not to purchase the property. How much do you support or oppose a recycling and transfer center being built at that location?**

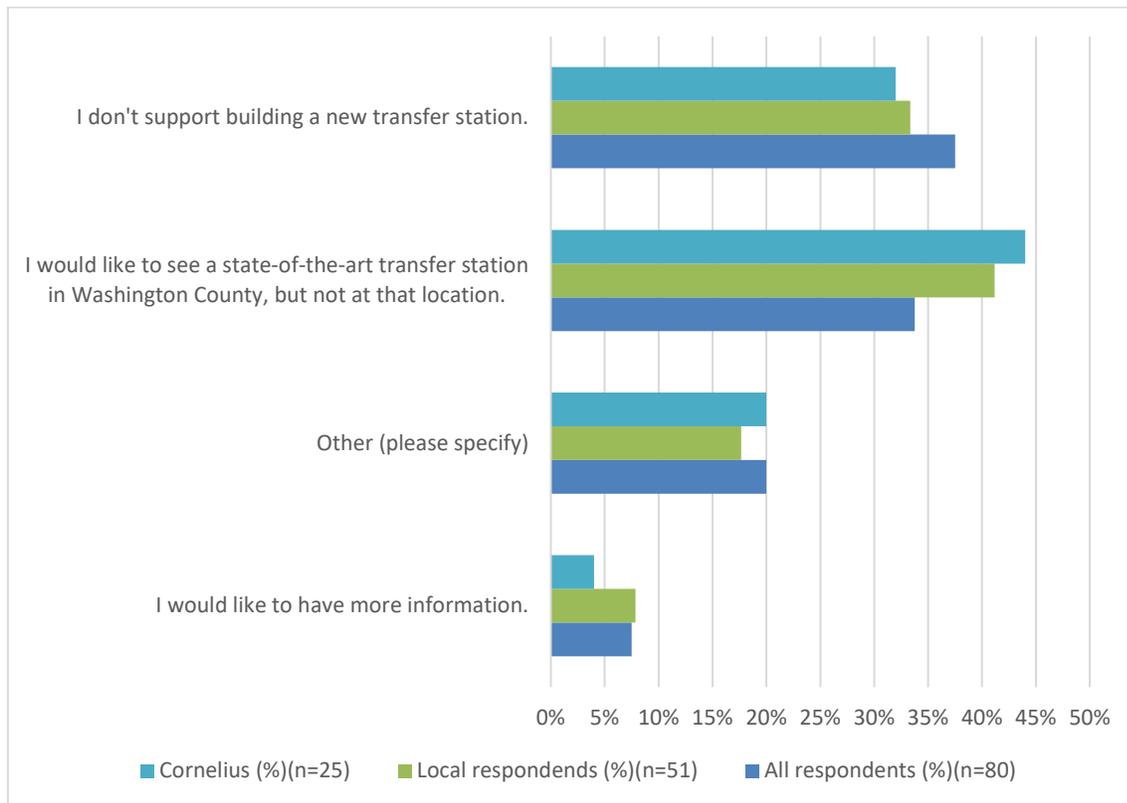


Nearly 80 percent (78 percent among all respondents, 79 percent among local respondents) of survey respondents either strongly support or somewhat support the proposed location.

Seven percent of all respondents said they strongly oppose a recycling and transfer center being built at the location. Among local respondents, 11 percent said they strongly oppose the location and 26 percent of Cornelius respondents said they strongly oppose

### Question #9 - If you answered opposed, would you give us more information?

Of the 80 respondents who oppose the proposed location, 38 percent do not support building a new transfer station at all. 34 percent said they would like to see a state-of-the-art transfer station in Washington County, but not at that location.



Of the 20 percent of respondents who specified a different reason for opposing the location, themes included:

- Cost and fees would be too high, or the facility would be too expensive
- The location should be closer to US Highway 26
- Belief that the facility would serve the needs of residents outside of Washington County
- Belief that Metro would not effectively complete the project
- Waste should be reduced rather than building a new transfer station
- Concern about impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, including traffic
- Prefer a private facility
- Potential impacts to low-income residents

## Question #10 - What questions do you have about this project?

Survey respondents provided over 40 responses with substantive questions about the project. The most frequent questions included themes identified by six or more respondents including **cost** of the project, **funding** to complete the project, and the **need** for the project.

- Questions about cost and funding focus on how much the project would cost to complete or operate, if there are ways to reduce project cost, and who will pay for it – including if property taxes would fund the project
- Questions about project need asked how the need is demonstrated and if the project need is high given other competing priorities. Respondents also asked if items collected for recycling are actually recycled, and whether efforts to increase recycling rates reduce the need for the project

Other questions were identified by three to five respondents and included topics of **environmental impacts**, **traffic**, consideration of **other potential project locations** and the **siting process**, and **public involvement**.

- Questions about environmental impacts of the project asked about potential noise, odors and pollution from the facility, impacts to biodiversity, migratory birds, and climate change
- Respondents' question about traffic asked about the routes trucks would use to access the facility and the impacts of increased traffic to the local community
- Questions about the project location and the siting process asked why the project would be located far from many Washington County residents, how the location was identified, if Metro considered expanding an existing facility like Farwest Fibers, which other locations were considered, and if Metro considered Environmental Justice and social equity in the siting process
- Questions about public involvement asked how Metro engaged with marginalized communities and what local residents think about the project

More than one survey respondent asked about the following topics:

- Jobs and who would be employed at the facility
- Which services would be included
- If solar electricity would be produced
- Other neighborhood impacts

Additional topics identified in response to the question include:

- How the project interacts with other planned infrastructure projects
- What would be the cost to users of the facility
- Expected economic impact
- Property owner impacts
- Expected revenue
- Site size
- Taxes paid from the facility

**Questions #11 and #12 - Where do you think a new transfer center should be located? And why is that a good location for a new transfer center?**

The 28 and 23 written comments received for these questions respectively were analyzed for top themes.

- About half of respondents felt a new transfer station should be located farther away from residences and towns in general because of concerns of traffic, smell, possible health impacts, lowering property values and impacts to business property. Some suggested it should be next to a highway.
- Some respondents suggested alternative locations such as Tigard, Hillsboro and Manning, OR. Two specific sites were suggested: the old mill in Manning and the rock quarry south of Forest Grove.
- A few respondents said it should be located in a more centralized location and closer to urban areas for convenience.

**Question #13 - Do you have any other feedback or questions related to this project for Metro?**

A randomized sample of 25% of the 302 written comments received for this question was analyzed for top themes. Respondents shared feedback similar to previous questions such as suggestions for location considerations and concern for traffic at the transfer station itself and increased traffic brought to the area.

Other comments and questions included:

- General feeling that the transfer station is needed and would provide a benefit to the community
- Concerns about cost and felt the project should be as cost effective as possible
- Community spaces with art and playgrounds are not needed
- Questions about the proposed site like did Metro study other sites and what the site is zoned for
- Suggestion for existing and future Metro transfer stations such as the need for clearly labeled sorting and better traffic management

Feeling the businesses should have more of a say in the location choice

- Concern about the location of the facility and proximity to residential areas
- Taxes
- Hard to recycle materials and hazardous waste and increased services to accept more materials
- Importance of community education on recycling

## Webinars

Metro and Centro hosted two informational webinars to provide a project overview and answer questions. The purpose of the webinars was to inform the public of a proposal for a recycling and transfer center in Cornelius, receive feedback from the community and to have attendees fill out the opinion survey. Both webinars were hosted on Facebook Live through Centro's page and translated into Spanish and American Sign Language. Residents and businesses within a .5 mile radius of the proposed property and those who had emailed to express interest in the project received mailers. One particular community of over 100 seniors also received an invitation packet with paper versions of the PowerPoint slides and project information to facilitate their participation.

<b>Webinar</b>	<b>Date</b>
Webinar #1	October 29, 2020
Webinar #2	November 11, 2020

The following are key highlights of feedback from the webinars:

- General comments of enthusiasm for the project
- Questions and interest in how to get involved
- Questions about cost to build the facility and the cost to purchase the property
- Questions about rates
- Concerns about project timeline with economic uncertainty
- Concerns about impacts to environment and public health
- Questions and concerns about project area demographics and disproportionate impact to underserved communities
- Interest in job creation
- Concerns about traffic impacts

### **Nearby residents and businesses**

On November 18th, Metro spoke with local neighboring businesses of proposed property in Cornelius including Higher Taste Foods, Myers Container, Myers Food, H&H Compost, New Season's Foods and Coach Sarge Cine. The presentation received a positive response, especially for running a transparent process and Metro's role in developing the site in a responsible manner.

On December 2nd Metro is hosting a conversation to which they invited neighboring residents including Forest Hills Mobile Park, a 55+ community, Mariah Park Manufactured Homes Park residents, and single-family homes to the South, South East, and East of the site located at North Fourth and Holladay Street.

## Community emails

As a result of different outreach efforts, Metro received four email messages from community members who have reached out seeking answers or requesting additional information after hearing details about the project.

One sender, who shared his experience in environmental/sustainability matters expressed interest in participating or being involved in the process further.

Other senders expressed different concerns, all of which have been mentioned in the survey comments or those received during meetings with the CAG. The common shared themes have to do with environmental impact (release of methane), negative impacts to property values, increased traffic on surface streets, smell and noise.

## RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

As noted previously, COVID 19 pandemic greatly impacted staff's ability to reach more community members in Cornelius and Forest Grove. Additionally, it should be noted that Oregon wildfires crisis and the major presidential and local elections in the fall of 2020 influenced the public's capacity and interest in engaging on topics of garbage and recycling.

Recommendations for next phase of engagement if the property is purchased by Metro:

1. Meeting with the community in-person is a preferred way to build relationships and receive feedback on the project. Future engagement activities should continue virtually until it is deemed safe to engage in person again meeting state and regional safety guidelines.
2. Continue to engage with community advisory group members in pre-design and identification of services. This includes a report back meeting with community advisory group to discuss final outcomes of engagement and Metro Council decision about the property acquisition.
3. Continue engagement with Centro Cultural of Washington County as a community partner while creating space for other local community leaders to participate and weigh in.
4. Inform Cornelius and Forest Grove residents who have not had a chance to participate in this process about the project proposal to gain their support. Prioritize participation by youth and Black, Indigenous, Latino/x, Asian and other people of color who may be impacted or benefit from the proposed project.
5. Engage with First Nations and indigenous peoples of the area using existing research and support from Metro's Indigenous Policy Advisor.
6. Explore options for Metro to create a Good Neighbor Agreement and/or Community Benefits agreement.

## CONTRIBUTING STAFF

### **Project Team**

Project Manager - Matt Tracy  
Project Sponsors - Matt Korot and Dan Blue  
Property Acquisitions Coordinator - Barbara Edwardson  
Community Engagement Lead - Gloria Pinzón Marin  
Community Engagement Specialist - Enrique Vargas

### **Community Partner**

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### **Steering Committee**

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Matt Korot  
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## APPENDIX

### GOALS

The engagement planning and activities are based on the goals and objectives outlined in [Metro's Strategic plan to advance equity, diversity and inclusion](#), the [Property and Environmental Services' Diversity, Racial Equity and Inclusion Work Plan](#), and the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#).

**Table:**

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### METRO'S STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION GOALS

- **GOAL A:** Convene and support regional partners to advance racial equity
- **GOAL B:** Meaningfully engage communities of color
- **GOAL C:** Hire, train and promote racially diverse workforce
- **GOAL D:** Create safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations
- **GOAL E:** Allocate resources to advance racial equity

### 2030 REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS

- Community Investment Principle: Make investment decisions in partnership with communities
- Goal 1: Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.
- Goal 9: Increase knowledge among community members about garbage, recyclables, and other priority materials that meet the needs of all
- Goal 10: Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables and other priority materials that meet the needs of all users.
- Goal 12: Manage all garbage and recycling operations to reduce their nuisance, safety and environmental impacts on workers and the public.
- Goal 13: Invest in communities that receive garbage and recyclables from Metro regions so that those communities regard solid waste facilities as assets.
  - Action 13.3: Require each solid waste facility to work towards a good neighbor agreement with host community.
  - Action 13.4: Evaluate Community Benefit Agreements as potential tool.
- Action 16.3: Improve interagency and community collaboration on siting and authorizing proposed solid waste facilities to reduce potential impacts on neighboring communities.

### PES DIVERSITY, RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION WORK PLAN

- Strategy 2: Meaningfully engage communities of color and partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) to advance racial equity
- Strategy 3: Provide services equitably, with a priority on communities of color (including Indigenous communities, Latino community, PAN African communities,)
- Action 3.1.5: Utilize racial equity tools for siting a Metro transfer station in the south region

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

1. City of Cornelius Council
  - Ongoing meetings beginning May 2019 with staff as well.
2. [CPO12C presentation](#) (Community Participation Organization) 12C denotes Cornelius specific CPO (Feb 13, 2020)
3. City of Cornelius Planning Commission – overview only
4. Briefings with City of Forest Grove Mayor and staff
5. City of Forest Grove Council (09/28/20)
6. Washington County Board (08/25/2020)
7. Briefing Washington County Chair
8. Briefing Washington County garbage and recycling staff – Multiple
9. Washington County Haulers Association (05/21/2020)
10. City of Hillsboro Council (09/15/2020)
11. Washington County City Managers meeting (08/26/2020)
12. City of Sherwood (11/24/2019)
13. Seattle/King County Transfer Station Tour for City of Cornelius elected and staff, and Centro Cultural staff (08/07/2019)
14. Orientation and seven Community Advisory Group Meetings - Summer/Fall 2020
15. Chamber of Commerce Cornelius and Forest Grove (11/23/2020)
16. Neighboring businesses forum (11/18/2020)
17. Nearby Resident Forum (12/02/2020)
18. Industry/Local Government Webinar (Nov. 24th)
19. Social Media posts about the project on Metro’s Facebook feed plus shared with private groups in Forest Grove/Cornelius (estimated 15,000 members)
20. Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce briefing (11/23/2020)

### Others:

- Public Opinion Survey (finalized 11/14/2020)
- Metro articles written about the project by Faith Cathcart
- Updates to parties signed up to receive information about the project.

### Internal Metro Staff and community advisory committees:

- RWAC (Regional Waste Advisory Committee - advises Metro Council)
- CORE (Committee on Racial Equity - community members, advises organization and Council)
- Many briefings with Solid Waste liaisons from Metro Council
- Briefings with Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, District 4 representative
- Briefings with Metro Council President Lynn Peterson
- Briefings with Metro Chief Operating Officer, Marissa Madrigal
- Steering Team (Metro staff, director level, legal, budget guidance)