

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020

Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

Location: **This meeting will be held virtually**
via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93492613844>
Meeting ID: 934 9261 3844

9 a.m. **Introductions and announcements**

9:15 a.m. **Metro's 2019 bond to protect and connect nature and people**

- *Ensure current Oversight Committee members possess a good understanding of the details of the new measure, supported by a Q&A*

9:45 a.m. **Final committee report and recommendations: setting up a future committee for success**

- *Given the new and expanded direction of the 2019 bond, what considerations/advice might the current Oversight Committee offer a future committee to set them up for success?*

10:45 a.m. **Transition to new committee**

- *What does transitioning to a new committee look like, including final meeting of the 2006 Oversight Committee and a formal handoff/celebration with the 2019 committee?*

11 a.m. **Adjourn**



Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
Date/time: Thursday, April 30, 2020 | 9 to 11 a.m.
Place: via Zoom videoconference
Purpose: Sunset of 2006 committee and feedback for formation of 2019 committee

ATTENDEES

Members: Mark Aasland, Dean Alterman, Caylin Barter, Drake Butsch, Kelsey Cardwell, Peter Mohr, Fritz Paulus, Shannon Shoul

Metro Council: Councilor Sam Chase

Community: Nicole Johnson, 1000 Friends of Oregon

Staff: Jon Blasher, Beth Cohen, Scotty Ellis, Marybeth Haliski, Ashley McCarron, Dan Moeller, Melanie Reinert, Melissa Weber

ACTIONS AGREED UPON

Metro staff will memorialize the feedback for the next committee and follow up with the 2006 committee on potential engagement.

Peter M. opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

- The Committee will transition to a new committee after this meeting as the 2019 bond is being implemented.
- Beth Cohen and Scotty Ellis of Metro were introduced to provide an update on the 2019 bond and facilitate conversation, and Marybeth H. led introductions of the rest of the group.
- **Peter M. suggested creating a bond member biography document for the new committee.**

Beth C. shared a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 bond.

- Three specific areas make this bond different from the last: leading with racial equity, community engagement and climate resilience.
- Metro sold \$200M in bonds last week, allowing work to start.
- The team is putting together a timeline of milestones and a work plan—these draft documents will be presented to Metro Council in May. The new context of COVID-19-related impacts is being considered in relation to the bond work and its potential positive impacts.
- Beth reviewed the six program areas and their allocated funding.

- The racial equity and community engagement goals led the development of the initial bond and continue to guide implementation. Metro intends to meaningfully engage Indigenous populations, BIPOC communities, and other communities that have been historically marginalized throughout bond processes. Strategies to engage, allow for meaningful feedback and how to implement that feedback are being developed for the bond.
- 22 target areas were identified for purchase and conservation, some new from the 2006 bond. Work was done to understand the cultural significance of sites to the Indigenous communities in the region. Tax lots will be identified, brought to Council for approval, and then acquisition will begin. One target area is an urban area in proximity to the Urban Growth Boundary, so many stakeholders will need to be involved in related discussions.
- Access to nature across the region and maintaining Metro's existing portfolio are important parts of the bond, so new master plans and existing parks will both receive attention.
- The Local Share program allows for land purchases, habitat restoration and the building and maintenance of parks and trails. In the 2006 bond, local share projects were identified by local jurisdictions prior to bond referral. In the 2019 bond, the project selection process is starting now. A new team member will be hired to lead this process.
- Nature and Neighborhoods grant component has a larger fund (\$40M) in this bond. There is an opportunity to pilot participatory grant making, allowing community to have a larger say in the allocation and program decisions around funding. Conversations with community advocates are planned. Metro will identify program guidelines and support for organizations to improve their grant applications.
- A new Trails program allows for trail construction and acquisition, which will track closely with other bond-related land acquisition processes. Easement purchases and 20 trail construction projects were also identified with a focus on closing gaps.
- The Complex Community Projects program includes \$20M allocated for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, and other opportunities will be fleshed out in the future.
- The bond refinement process will take broad policy goals and transform those into specific criteria and to guide bond investments. The bond programs will unfold on different timelines, but the goal is to identify opportunities for shared engagement and resources across programs. Preparation is wrapping up, and the team is nearing alignment work—by fall 2020 to early 2021, some programs will be launched and active, and the newer, complex programs will be fleshed out in spring 2021.

Beth C. opened to questions and feedback from the group.

Q: Given that the new bond has a more distinct footprint than the prior bond, when Metro approaches communities will there be discussion about the old bond and the prior administration and emphases and why these new processes were not considered/included in the old bond?

A: The previous bond had a different structure and emphasis—there was a lot of engagement done during the development of the 2019 bond with community partners, including grounding in the 2006 bond work and shifting of goals. Metro expects to continue that work through refinement,

be consistent with the work done in 2018-2019, and explore the context of the 2006 work and how it has led to present work. Goals are consistency and comprehensiveness. We need to consider how much was achieved and why/how the 2006 bond was designed as we build the foundation for the 2019 programs. The 2006 work wasn't exclusionary, but was foundational for the 2019 work and will be an important part of the discussions with the community.

Q: How will Metro target property and area work through a racial lens, considering that there is unwritten regional and county parity, and considering 'old' versus 'new' target areas?

A: This summer we are figuring out bond-wide criteria and criteria for specific programs, a process which will flesh this out. Target areas are also being considered according to their cultural significance to Indigenous communities. The process should be inclusive and an opportunity for people to drive the priorities formalized in the refinement plan. This will continue throughout this next six-month period. Metro has been more inclusive of indigenous people, even in the older measure (naming was changed to Native American terms, i.e. Quamash Prairie), which is a positive step.

Q: Do economic conditions from COVID-19 affect funding?

A: The bond sale moved forward and went well with favorable conditions despite current economic challenges. This is a great resource to leverage bond investment for maximum impact in a challenging time—the bond is in good shape, and work can move forward. As we go through this process, we will consider how to prioritize capital intensive programs (i.e. park and trail improvements could stimulate local economies while protecting natural resources). Changes were intentional to address culturally-specific needs for the entire region (capital investment and development, related jobs, and an urban transformation component). We could prioritize trails, facility upgrades and urban transformation, which are heavy investments to help rebuild the economy. Recent Metro bonds (parks and housing) have helped prepare the region for economic downturns like this. Bond work may stand out in the immediate future as something that can be done in the midst of the economic turmoil.

Q: How are the affordable housing bond and parks bonds coordinating work (i.e. trails access for affordable housing areas)?

A: The Metro Council directed staff to look at a regional investment strategy (affordable housing, protect nature, trails, safer and effective transportation, and now houselessness). The parks and housing measures passed, so those teams are meeting to coordinate efforts. We are considering how to incorporate housing security and prevent displacement and gentrification with bond investments.

Q: For the new committee are we looking at representation from housing/low income housing participants for a better range of perspectives?

A: Legal, technical, policy and financial expertise has been represented on the current committee, and the new bond seeks community involvement in its implementation. We want to consider the criteria and structure and build a bridge carrying expertise from the existing committee to the future one.

Discussion shifted to the formation of the new committee

- Metro staff will work with Council on a structure, membership and charter in late summer 2020 with plans to seat the new committee in October or November. Feedback for this process is welcome.
- The committee should reflect the characteristics of the new bond—each objective/aspect should be represented in the room.
- Representation for new areas (equity, climate resiliency) is needed, as well as prior valuable expertise that was essential/key to conversation.
- At formation, we created priorities and performance measures: elected officials, staff and committee knew the direction.
 - **We had a standard from beginning and recommend carrying that process forward as a guide.**
 - The objectives and mechanics of the 2006 bond allowed for approaching specific members of the committee based on their background and expertise, which reflected the bond's specific technical engagement needs (mechanics, restoration, resource management, trails and real estate acquisition, negotiations, Terramet creation, etc.).
 - **Region or equity were not considerations, and we need to bring those tools in, using a similar structure with added expertise in new areas.**
- **Roles could be defined better, as there were no roles outlined from the start in 2006.**
 - Council can pre-identify the expertise needed and apply this to who sits on the committee.
 - **Consider identifying “seats” and place people in those roles based on expertise in specific areas for a rounded membership.**
 - **Defined roles can inform agendas and how to identify areas that might be missing deeper work—there is a need for varied voices across the committee.**
 - **The past voice was dominated by experience and tenure, and now we can create a level playing field for voice and expertise—members with roles may feel they have a level voice with others at the table.**
- The mission made technical expertise a focus, and members had expertise related to that.
 - **Spending money wisely is not an outlined objective in new bond, perhaps as an assumption, but it should be retained as part of oversight.**
 - **The new members should include expertise in at least one of each of six bond areas.**
 - **Include finance, acquisition, construction experience and other technical expertise as well as trail advocacy, environmental expertise, and a racial equity lens.**
 - For the 2019 bond “spent well” means “spent to accomplish a resolution,” a change from the definition in the 2006 bond, so membership should be experts to accomplish those objectives.

- **The committee should include technical expertise AND reflect the makeup of the bond to provide technical oversight on fiscal components, transparency, accountability and best practices.**
- **If there's a gap in essential work or an unclear component, we should identify those and bring them to Council for the new charter moving forward.**
- **The group recommended a memo from this committee to the future committee and staff summarizing this feedback.**
- The group considered the pros and cons of set roles/seats for the new committee.
 - **Consider succession planning to keep knowledge sets and seats full (make recruitment of an eventual successor a condition of participating).**
 - **Aspirationally, "seats" for representation is nice, but this ideal must be balanced against realistic attendance and participation—don't miss out on intersectionality and multiple areas of expertise.**
 - **Don't set single capabilities, but match skillsets rather than narrow/specific roles.**
 - **Consider a number of general seats and a number of set seats in the overall group.**
 - **Topical seats requiring presence on the committee at all times could include racial equity, trails, disability, climate change, farming, and Indigenous representation.**
 - **Ad hoc generalists in finance, law, citizen activism, policy and gentrification would also be present, and aspire for diversity in technical expertise members.**
 - **Seek the lens of BIPOC communities and underrepresented groups not historically at the table.**
 - **Noting struggles with past attendance, be cautious about having certain members as the sole representative of a particular perspective (if that member can't attend, then that voice goes silent).**
 - The group acknowledged the challenge of finding all perspectives, but knew there would be people interested in the challenge, committed to participate and ready to speak up.
- **Consider a committee format that can draw quieter, more reserved members into the conversation.**
- **Consider a minimum annual meeting attendance requirement framed within the duty and privilege of participating on the committee.**
 - The group noted that participation and attendance declined as the bond work wrapped in later years.
 - **Define the expected commitment up-front for the new committee.**
 - **Consider how many meetings a year will be needed (averaged three a year previously, consider targeting a quarterly meeting schedule for the new committee); divulge that and ask for a commitment to attendance.**

- **The group felt that the broader 2019 bond footprint called for more a more structured committee than in 2006.**
 - The number of committee members is not specified in the new bond to allow for recommendations on size and makeup to Council based on the refinement processes.
 - **A smaller membership may be more manageable for staff, but consider that attendance becomes even more critical with fewer voices.**
- **A stronger cohesion within the committee would give people a sense of wanting to participate, so consider how to increase buy-in and build genuine connections.**
 - **Holding a virtual meeting once a year was suggested, as it could allow for more participation across regional membership.**
 - **Field trips should continue, and perhaps a virtual element could be incorporated to those as well.**
 - **Consider that a diversified committee may have different schedule patterns.**
 - **Consider family-friendly field trips with children allowed.**
- **Provide solid onboarding and reference documents along the way.**
 - **Provide tutorials/trainings regarding budgets/budget packets and avoid numbers that go over people's heads.**
 - Melissa W. noted a goal was to improve the transparency and user-friendly nature of financial materials.
 - **Make people comfortable and confident with critical elements as a resource.**
 - **Perhaps there's a potential for a transitional "breaking of bread" between old and new committees to provide advice and build relationships.**
- Staff clarified that the current committee does not have to create the new committee, and the strategy is to take and memorialize feedback from this meeting to inform the Metro team to work with Council on a framework for new group.
 - The 2006 committee was a great success, and the 2019 bond has many new elements, so rather than build on 2006, this is an opportunity to sunset and sunrise but without any institutional knowledge loss.
 - Some current committee members can (and should) serve on the 2019 committee.
 - Mark A. was interested in continuing.
 - Timeline on commitment is flexible, given external circumstances, but if you know your desired participation now, let staff know.
 - **Perhaps the old Chair could go to lunch with groups of new committee members to make a personal connection and discuss roles and responsibilities—consider smaller knowledge-sharing events rather than a larger event.**

- Staff will start conversations on structure and membership makeup with Council in late summer, and in fall a committee will be appointed and have a first meeting.
 - Consider the transition handoff and if there is help with recruitment, late summer, early fall and event around the first meeting time.
 - Staff can approach Council with a list of potential members for consideration.
 - **Consider structure and experience carry-forward along with the addition of the new elements.**
 - **History and knowledge should be carried forward for expediency, comprehensive work and comfort of next committee.**

Councilor Chase thanked the group for their input and work.

Next steps

Staff will review the feedback from today, identify remaining questions and regroup for next steps. We may circle back for another virtual meeting in the summer to follow up on any outstanding issues.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Meeting notes recorded by Melanie Reinert: melanie.reinert@oregonmetro.gov

For reference, 2019 bond information is available online: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-investments/parks-and-nature-investments>



Metro



2019 Parks and Nature bond overview

April 30th, 2020

Approval of 2019 bond

\$475 million bond measure overwhelmingly approved in November

Foundational commitments and principles

- racial equity
- community engagement
- climate resilience



Status of bond work

Bond sale

Project team

May 19 work
session with
Council



Quick review – Six Program Areas

- Land investments and restoration, \$155 million
- Metro park improvements, \$98 million
- Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, \$40 million
- Local parks and nature projects, \$92 million
- Walking and biking trails, \$40 million
- Complex community projects, \$50 million

Racial equity criteria

Metro staff will work with each jurisdiction to clarify and help meet criteria.

- Focus on communities of color, Indigenous communities, and other historically marginalized groups.
- Prioritize projects and needs.
- Document impact of investments.

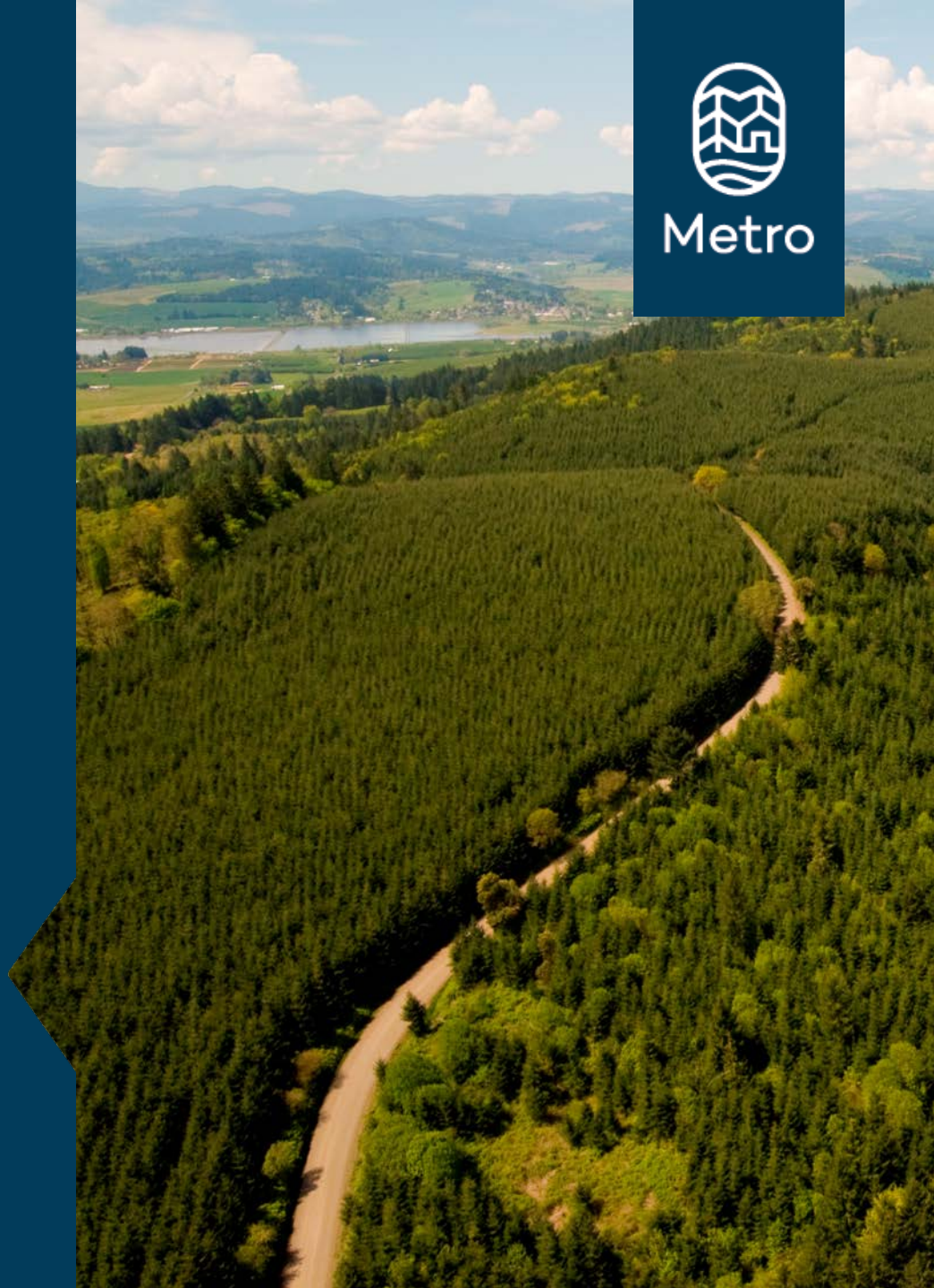
Meaningful engagement criteria

- Strategies to engage communities of color, Indigenous communities, and other historically marginalized groups.
- Inclusion of communities of color, Indigenous communities, and other historically marginalized groups in decision-making/prioritization.
- Documenting engagement.

**Land purchase
and restoration:
\$155 million**



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**Metro park
improvements:
\$98 million**



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**Local parks and
nature projects:
\$92 million**



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**Nature in
Neighborhoods
grants:
\$40 million**



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**Walking and
biking trails:
\$40 million**



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**Complex
community
projects:
\$50 million**

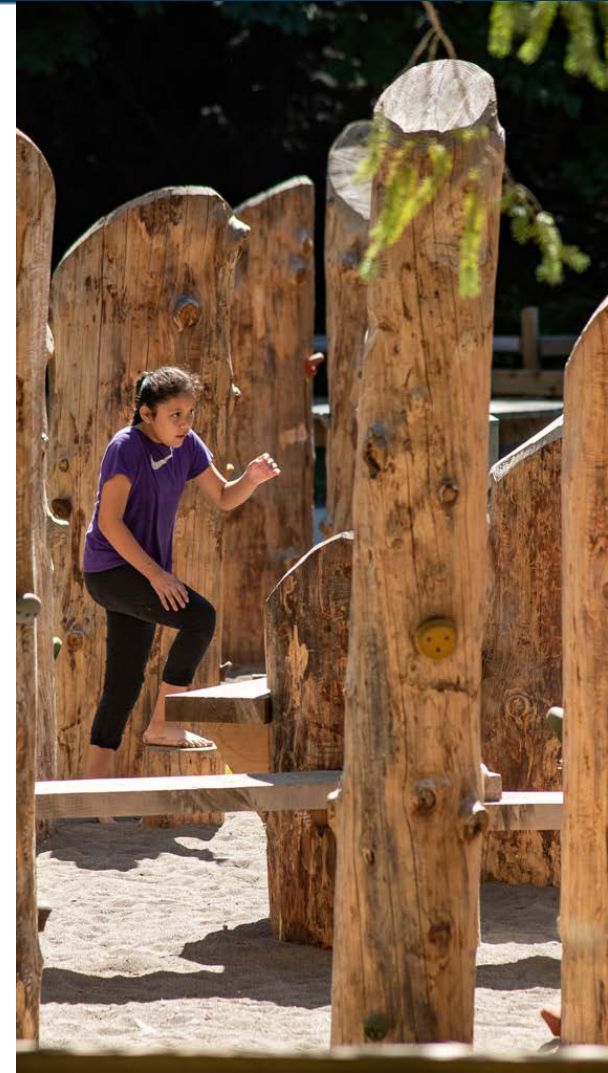


Refinement

What is refinement?

Regional partners and community come together to take the big policy goals in the bond measure and turn them into specific actions, programs and criteria.

Each program area will have its own refinement process.



Refinement schedule

November 2019 - April 2020: **Preparation**

May - October 2020: **Alignment**

November 2020 - March 2021: **Launch**

April 2021 and onward: **Innovate**

Questions?

Bond refinement team manager

Beth Cohen

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