

Meeting Summary

Date: Monday, October 11, 2021
Time: 6:00pm – 7:40pm
Meeting: Community Advisory Group – Metro Future South
Place: Zoom - Virtual
Purpose: Future Metro South Jennifer St. Update

Members present

Tey Kong, Ray Atkinson, Anna Wilson, Rachel Summer, Vickie Gimm, Jairaj Singh, Sandy Minsein, Awaz Muhamad, Diana Castaneda , Santiago Nolasco

Members absent

Brent Balog, Denyse McGriff, Jennifer Bell, Duane Miller, Thao Tu, Yolanda Sanchez

Presenters and Staff

Estee Segal, *Project Manager*; Gloria Pinzón Marin, *Community Engagement Lead*; Sara Seid, *Communications Administrative Assistant*; Jairaj Singh, *Unite Oregon Clackamas County Chapter Director*; Kimberléa Ruffu, *Communications Program Assistant*; Ivonne Rivero, *Spanish Translation/Interpreter*

Topics

Discussion of Jennifer Street site decision; Community Lens review and discussion

- **Discussion of Jennifer Street site decision:** Estee Segal, Project Manager, provided information on why the Metro COO (Marisa Madrigal) and Metro Council ultimately decided not to purchase the property that had been under consideration for nine months. The cost of preparing the site for development as a garbage and recycling facility, as well as concerns about the resiliency of the site to natural hazards were primary factors. From extensive outreach and engagement about the proposed project, Metro heard general support for expanded services in a modern transfer station, but also concerns from a community survey, water providers, and Community Planning Organizations CPO) about potential ecological impacts due to the location being next to the Clackamas River.

Estee pointed out that deciding not to purchase a site at the end of a purchase and sale agreement due diligence period is not uncommon and that she appreciates all of the work and effort that was put into considering the site. Relationships that were fostered and built during the process are valuable and the CAG created Community Lens will be applied to future possible sites and the site selection process. Moving forward Metro is considering temporary solutions to help with capacity limitations at the existing Metro South transfer station while the team continues searching for a new site.

- **Community Lens Review + Discussion:** Gloria Pinzon, Community Engagement Specialist provided a review of the Community Lens and engagement side of the project. The team worked to engage with various community stakeholders, connected with water protectors including Clackamas River Basin Council and the Clackamas River Water Providers. A community survey put out in May 2021 received over 1,200 responses that the team is working on summarizing to inform future planning efforts.

Gloria reiterated gratitude for the CAG team and emphasizes that the Community Lens is a tool to inform decisions about this project moving forward.

- **Throughout the meeting** there were opportunities for CAG members to ask questions or for clarification. During the review of the Community Lens criteria, multiple members provided insights and questions about priorities for a future site and shared that it can be challenging to develop criteria or standards when there is no site currently being reviewed and conditions are in flux. Members agreed that capacity for managing waste long term, environmental protection, and equitable access to a new facility were top priorities for any new site consideration.

Jairaj Singh, Unite Oregon Clackamas County Chapter Director, suggested that from hearing CAG feedback across meetings that the group consider moving up community resources and spaces at the site from a preferred criteria to a “must have” priority. He offered this because of the lack of safe gathering spaces or resource hubs in the event of natural disasters and that the project could provide a more comprehensive and dynamic public service.

CAG members agreed to consider this with some sharing their initial thoughts about moving the priority up or leaving it as-is. Metro team will follow up with this question to members who were unable to attend.