

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: 2/18/21

LENGTH: 45 mins

PRESENTATION TITLE: Future Metro South recycling and transfer center - Jennifer Street site

DECISION TYPE: Advisory

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goal 16, Action 16.6

PRESENTER(S): Estee Segal, Gloria Pinzon, Dan Blue

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- This is, in part, a follow up to the presentation made on 1/21/21 and time to hear committee members' input and questions on the Metro South new facility project and site ("Jennifer Street") under consideration to build a future solid waste facility.
- We will also present summary and feedback from Phase I engagement completed with our Community Advisory Group, as well as seek guidance on our approach to site specific engagement and prioritizing audiences over the next 5 months.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Advisory –follow up discussion on information presented on 1/21/21 and guidance on community engagement priorities.

BACKGROUND

- The 2030 Regional Waste Plan which includes goals related to improving solid waste transfer system infrastructure in the south and west parts of the region. Specifically, Goal 16.6 directs staff to: "Expand and improve access to services provided at Metro South Transfer Station."
- After 30 years of operation, the current Metro South Transfer Station is stretched beyond capacity to functionally serve both user groups on the same site. The site lacks space to provide the comprehensive waste, recycling, recovery and transfer services that the region needs for the future. The need for a new facility has been documented for well over 10 years, with the most recent assessment completed in 2016 by HDR, including internal and external stakeholders. This assessment recommended that Metro move self-haul and household hazardous waste services to a new location, while maintaining the current facility for just commercial (garbage hauler) customers. More recently, staff received direction from Metro Council in late 2019 to identify potential site or sites for some or all services currently provided at Metro South, with specific support for moving all services offsite should a suitable alternative site (a site large enough) be identified.
- Since late 2018 Metro staff have been actively looking for properties in northern Clackamas County to build a new waste facility. Finding land that is for-sale, large enough for such a facility (at least 7 acres), and with the appropriate zoning (industrial), is extremely challenging in this part of the region. Because there are in-effect no sites on the market (for sale) that meet the size and zoning needs, staff worked with the Data Research Center to develop a set of "base" and "functional" criteria to identify and rank possible sites within an

established siting area (detailed in “Siting Criteria Overview” document, available if interested). Staff identified 166 possible sites and ranked them, focusing outreach and investigation on the sites that ranked highest, to see if owners had interest in a future land sale for the project use. The Jennifer Street site ranked #6 after applying the siting criteria.

- Project team has provided updates to the RWAC about our search for possible sites, siting criteria and community engagement work for the South project over last 18 months, and most recently on the Jennifer Street site under option, on 1/21/21.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Do you have questions or feedback for staff on the Jennifer Street site from our presentation last month?
- Understanding our priority and other audiences, do you have suggestions for specific organizations, non-profits, or community leaders to reach out to between March–June 2021?
- What would you like to hear about from community members regarding the project at this site?
- How do you see community input being incorporated in the decision making about the project at this site?

NEXT STEPS

- With guidance from RWAC and others, project staff will begin a new phase of community engagement, reaching out to a wide range of stakeholders and community members to gather input on the project and hear about opportunities and challenges related to the site under option. With guidance from the Regional Waste Plan, Metro is committed to plan, site and build a new facility in collaboration with community, actively including the most impacted communities, as well as those that have been historically marginalized from decision making processes.
- Part of this work will be to discuss and assess options for which waste and recycling services could move to the new site, and which might stay at the existing facility in Oregon City, based on variables like operational efficiency, site accessibility, location and cost (to construct and operate). At the end of the due diligence period in summer 2021, the Metro Council will determine whether to purchase the site.
- If further due diligence, community engagement and direction from the project Steering Team continue to support the possible acquisition of this site for a future facility, staff would return to RWAC in early-summer 2021, to present how RWAC input from February 2021 was incorporated in assessing the viability of the site – as well as present further due diligence outcomes and a summary of cost/benefits of proceeding with purchase of the site, prior to taking a recommendation on acquisition to Metro Council in August 2021.
- Staff would like RWAC to consider providing formal input to Metro Council (a letter) on site under consideration, engagement, when we return to you in June

ATTACHMENTS

- Excerpt from 1/21/21 PowerPoint presentation, slides on Jennifer Street site under consideration
- Summary of Phase I CAG input – “Draft 2 – Community Lens: A vision for site selection and future project decisions”