

STAFF REPORT: COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY MEETING

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SYSTEM FACILITIES PLAN: PHASE 3 DRAFT SCENARIOS

Date: 7/11/2023

Department: Waste Prevention and
Environmental Services

Meeting Date: 7/20/2023

Presenter(s): Marissa Grass, Estee Segal
Length: 45 mins

ISSUE STATEMENT

Convenience. Access. Affordability. Everyone, no matter where they live in the region, should have equitable access to garbage and recycling services.

Currently, there is inconsistent access because facilities were developed to suit the region's needs many years ago. Today, facilities are not always located where they are most needed, nor are they scaled to meet community needs.

The Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan is assessing the region's current public, private, and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure, identifying service gaps, and presenting potential plans for future investments in new facilities or new services.

COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

In Phase 3, Metro Council will be asked to select a preferred scenario (set of investments), that best meet project values and outcomes.

QUESTION(S) for CORE

CORE is being asked to consider proposed plans for future investment (scenarios), and to help us elevate the needs of communities of color and other groups historically underserved or impacted by the garbage and recycling system.

Equity Action Analysis

Each community may experience different impacts associated with each scenario. This activity is intended to enable you to explore, assess and decide on different actions that can be taken to increase benefits and minimize burdens for underrepresented communities.

For each scenario, we are asking CORE to consider potential:

- Positive impacts (beneficial)
- Negative impacts (adverse)
- Missed opportunities (oops)

Additionally,

- What clarifications or questions do you have about the draft scenarios?
- Advice for sharing scenarios with a diverse set of audiences?

Accessibility Note: We plan to use Google Jamboard as a way of collecting your input during the meeting. For more information about how Jamboard works, visit: [What's Jamboard?](#)

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

How your feedback will be used

- This Fall project stakeholders, RWAC, CORE, MPAC and Metro Council will be asked to review the scenarios and choose which scenario or set of investments best meets the [project values and outcomes](#).
- As part of this decision making, a set of pros/cons for each scenario will be developed and presented along with the scenario summaries.
- CORE feedback on July 20, and Community Advisory Group feedback, will be incorporated into the pros and cons as a way of elevating community voice in decision-making.

Select actions to meet Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (SPAREDI) goals include:

- *Goal A: Metro convenes and supports regional partners to advance racial equity*
As discussed in the SPAREDI, Metro is in a unique position to bring together public, private and community partners to advance racial equity. The System Facilities Plan is aligned with Objective 1 and aims to engage existing committees and create new opportunities to convene and work collaboratively with regional partners to advance equity related to the solid waste system.
- *Goal B: Metro meaningfully engages communities of color*
Objective 3 is focused on increasing participation of communities of color in Metro decision-making. To ensure the project will bring benefits to all communities, and to incorporate the viewpoints and needs of historically marginalized communities, the project formed its own Community Advisory Group in May 2022. The group is made up of members representing historically marginalized communities from throughout the region, that work alongside staff to review draft findings and develop plan elements.
- *Goal C: Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce*
The System Facilities Plan values and outcomes includes goals related to economic well-being including providing jobs with living wages, benefits and safe work environments; recruiting and retaining workers who are underrepresented in the garbage and recycling industry; and, creating opportunities within the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair sectors for people with barriers to employment.
- *Goal D: Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations*
Objective 3 is to increase the accessibility and relevance of Metro's programs and services to communities of color. Equitable system access is a value within the plan, and each scenario will be assessed based on accessibility.
- *Goal E: Metro's resource allocation advances racial equity*
At its core, the System Facilities Plan is an investment plan. Future investments may include construction of new facilities, incorporation of new services in existing facilities and identifying non facility based alternatives in some cases. The plan will consider costs and ratepayer impacts, and will elevate the needs of communities of color and other groups historically underserved or impacted by the garbage and recycling system.

ATTACHMENTS

System Facilities Plan Scenarios

[Equity Action Analysis](#)

Background

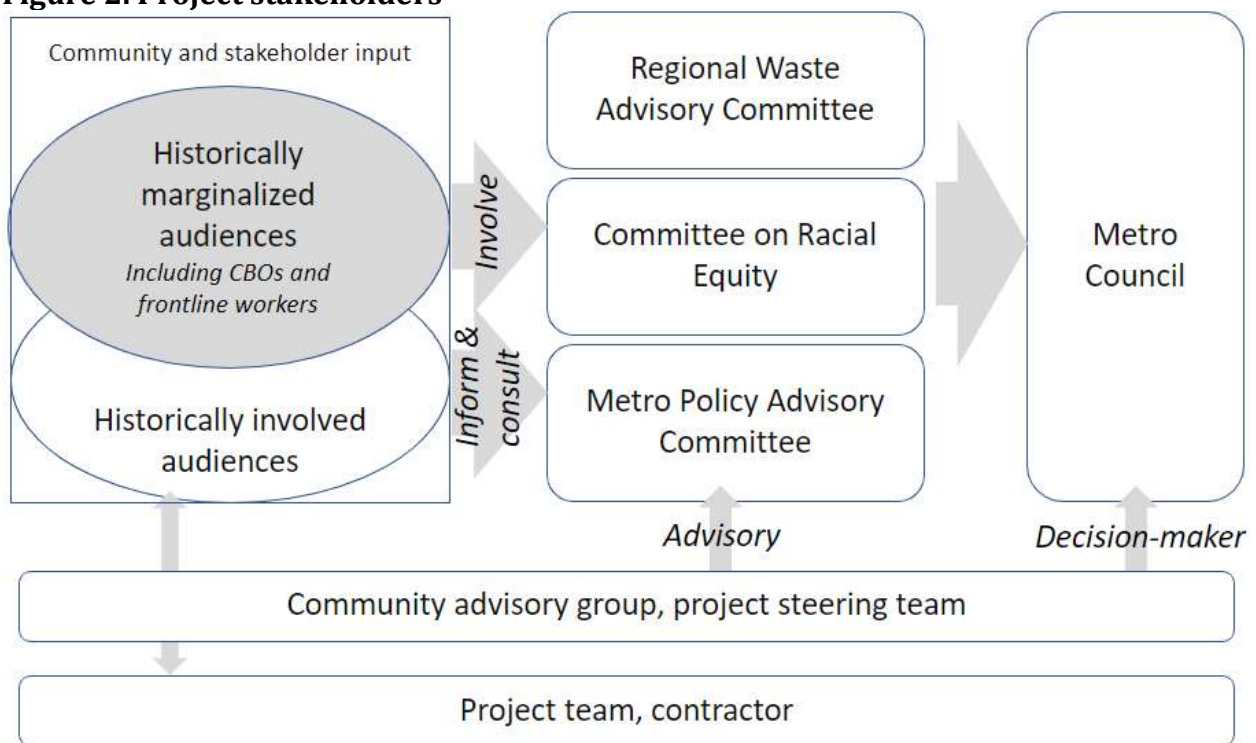
Metro Council is being asked to engage in five distinct project phases to guide the work of the plan, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Timeline for the System Facilities Plan Update



In addition to Metro Council, project stakeholders include Metro advisory committees, a community advisory group, and garbage, recycling, and reuse industry stakeholders, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Project stakeholders



In **phase 1**, staff reviewed Regional Waste Plan values and principles and developed desired outcomes to guide the development of the System Facilities Plan. One new value reflecting Metro's commitment to seek Tribal government consultation was added. The values and outcomes were also shaped with input from four advisory committees: Metro's Committee on Racial Equity, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and the community advisory group that was formed for this project. In spring and summer 2022 staff shared the values and outcomes with Metro Council and received policy guidance to develop a plan that focuses on:

- Reducing garbage through waste reduction,
- Improving service quality and access, and
- Keeping services affordable.

[View the project Values & Outcomes](#)

In **phase 2**, Between September 2022 and June 2023, Metro used a combination of engagement activities and technical research to identify facility gaps in the regional reuse, recycling and garbage system. Engagement efforts gathered input from local government partners, representatives from the garbage and recycling industry, reuse and repair organizations and community members.

The technical analysis focused on transfer facilities. These facilities accept materials from the public or garbage and recycling companies, consolidate loads and transport to other facilities to process materials for reuse, recycling, composting and landfilling. For example, most curbside trash is taken to a transfer facility before it ends up in a landfill.

Metro reviewed 14 groups of facilities, organized by the materials they process and what customers they serve. Staff assessed gaps in three main areas:

- Access – how easy is it to get to facilities based on driving times, or nearness to public transport, walking or biking infrastructure.
- Cost – how consistent are disposal costs throughout the region
- Disaster resilience – are facilities located in areas at high risk of flooding or earthquake damage

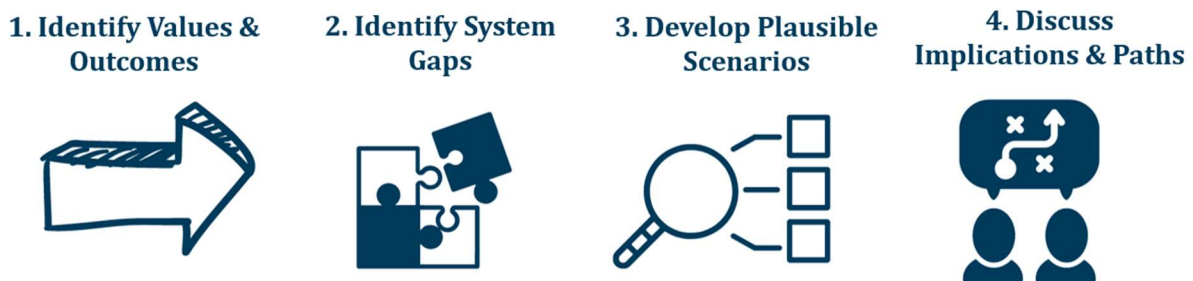
View a summary of the gaps identified through both the engagement and technical analysis.

We are now in **Phase 3**, and Metro Council will be asked to choose a preferred set of investments while considering the input received from project stakeholders. Figure 3 describes the scenario planning process.

Next steps include:

- Finalize scenarios for review by project stakeholders at a workshop in September.
- Discuss the result of engagement with the Community Advisory Group, CORE, RWAC, and MPAC in October.
- Update and share scenarios and engagement results with Metro Council in November.
- Seek direction on a preferred scenario in December.

Figure 3. The Scenario Planning Process



The Garbage, Recycling, Reuse and Repair System

Our regional waste system is more than recycling services and garbage facilities. It encompasses the entire life of the products we use, from design, to production, to use, until they go to a recycler, landfill or thrift store. Our regional garbage and recycling system handles products and packaging at the end of their useful life.

The garbage and recycling system

