

Proposed West Side Transfer Station

Engagement & Equity Approach (Phase one)

Project Background

Metro's Property and Environmental Services Department is proposing the siting, design, development and construction of a transfer station to be located in the Western portion of the Metro region. The multi-use facility would handle the collection of garbage, recyclables, household hazardous waste and reusable items and provide a variety of other benefits to the community. The proposal is supported by the Values, Principles, Vision, and Goals of Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan, customer feedback, and regional jurisdictional partners.

After a year of searching for properties, in the fall of 2019, Metro entered into a one-year sale agreement with a property owner that grants Metro exclusive rights to purchase a 12-acre industrial-zoned property located on 4th and Holladay Streets in Cornelius. During this due diligence period, Metro will evaluate the site for health, environmental, transportation, cost efficiency, and social and cultural impacts to inform the decision on whether to purchase the property and build the transfer facility. Metro Project Team and Metro Council must decide whether to build the facility by October of 2020. The Metro Council will formalize the decision through a resolution.

Community Engagement

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 decision-making about siting, programming, design and services of the project
- Ensure the proposed facility will be an asset to Cornelius, Washington County, and the environment
- Engage potentially affected individuals, while prioritizing participation from people historically excluded from government decision-making and the solid waste system.
- *Create of a Good Neighbor Agreement and a Community Benefits Agreement.*

Engagement (Phase 1)

[October 2019 – August 2020]

Meaningfully engage a diverse base of residents, community leaders, businesses, and garbage and recycling industry professionals to help inform decision-making and identify potential impacts and opportunities of siting a transfer station at 4th and Holladay Street in Cornelius.

Goals:

- 1) Partner with a Community Based Organization to advance racial equity and apply environmental justice lens
- 2) Educate the public about the solid waste system and listen to feedback about current use
- 3) In partnership with community, discuss potential benefits, opportunities and challenges of this project. Explore ways to incorporate these ideas early in the process and identify ways to mitigate community concerns through design, if possible.

- 4) Determine the level of support for the proposed transfer station at this location
- 5) Community explores desired amenities and services in preparation for phase 2 of engagement

Strategy

The engagement team will use sub-regional, place-based, and multifaceted approach to reach priority audiences and minimize barriers to participation. This means we will engage in local spaces where folks feel comfortable. Metro will consider time, day of the week, location of meetings, language, accessibility, childcare and will provide stipends for participation.

Priority Audiences

- Residents, workers, and businesses of Cornelius living or functioning near the proposed site
- Prioritize underserved communities who may be most impacted, greatest barriers (*youth, people of color, indigenous, seniors, people with limited English proficiency, others living at or below poverty line*)
- Local garbage and recycling industry professionals

Other Audiences

- Residents of neighboring communities including Hillsboro, Beaverton, Forest Grove

Potential External partnerships

Centro cultural, Adelante Mujeres, Bien Estar, Washington County Master Recyclers, Promotores, Forest Grove School District, Hillsboro School District, Native American Youth and Family Center, IRCO Slavic Network of Oregon, OPAL, Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Engagement (Phase 2):

[Tentative Timeline 2021 –2023]

If after Phase 1 engagement and due diligence, Metro determines there is support for building the transfer station on this property, it will purchase the property and embark upon a second phase of engagement to guide Metro on topics such as community amenities, design, workforce development and services. During this phase, Metro will begin the process to create a Good Neighbor Agreement and a Community Benefits Agreement.

The final engagement plan will incorporate feedback from CORE and our future Community Based Organization partner (once identified).

*Equity approach on Page 3-4

Equity Approach

The engagement approach is informed by Metro's [Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#), the [Property and Environmental Services' Diversity, Racial Equity and Inclusion Work Plan](#), and the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#).

1. Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (adopted by Metro Council in 2016)

Goal	Objective	What this means for this project?
Goal B- Metro meaningfully engage communities of color	Objective 1: Establish and strengthen relationships with communities of color. Objective 3: Increase participation of communities of color in Metro decision-making.	Ensure that communities of color are meaningfully engaged and influence Metro's decisions about facility siting, programs, employment, and services.
Goal D- Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations	Objective 3: Increase the accessibility and relevance of Metro's programs and services to communities of color.	Ensure Metro provides easily accessible facilities and services that provide relevant services to all residents of the region with a focus on communities of color.
Goal E- Metro's resource allocation advances racial equity	Objective 1: Increase the utilization of equity criteria in resource allocation.	Ensure Metro uses equity tools and guidelines to guarantee services are equitably available and accessible to all residents of the region.

2. The 2030 Regional Waste Plan (adopted by Metro Council in 2019)

Goal	Objective	What this means for this project?
Goal 1- Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.	1.1 Increase representation of historically marginalized community members, including youth, on advisory committees, such as Metro and local government solid waste advisory committees.	Ensure engagement efforts for Metro projects and decision-making will include members of historically marginalized communities including youth.
Goal 9- Increase knowledge among community members about garbage, recyclables, and other priority materials that meet the needs of all users.	9.1 Provide culturally responsive education and assistance for garbage, recycling and reuse services to residents and businesses	Ensure Metro provides necessary tools for community to understand and use the benefits garbage and recycling system.

Goal 10- Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables and other priority materials that meet the needs of all users.	10.1 Provide comprehensive collection services and supporting education and assistance for source-separated recyclables, source separated food scraps and garbage, in compliance with state, regional and local requirements.	Engagement will ensure residents are aware of available services and ensure garbage, food scrap and recycling services are easily accessible to residents of the entire Metro region.
Goal 12- Manage all garbage and recycling operations to reduce their nuisance, safety and environmental impacts on workers and the public.	12.1 Minimize the health and safety impacts of solid waste operations on employees, customers and neighboring communities, with particular focus on low-income communities and communities of color, and identify methods for repairing past harm.	With proper engagement the community will help influence decisions that minimize potential negative impacts, on the community, caused by the solid waste system.

3. The PES Racial Equity & Inclusion Work Plan (adopted by Metro Council 2018):

Strategy	Action	What this means for this project?
Strategy 2- Meaningfully engage communities of color and partner with CBO's to advance racial equity	<p>Action 2.1-Ensure that the design of PES programs, and plans are driven by communities of color.</p> <p>Action 2.2-Actively recruit people of color for advisory boards, workgroups, and comities.</p>	<p>Ensure the engagement, programming, services, and employment plans for his project are created in partnership with communities of color.</p> <p>Partner with community based organizations to ensure all groups are represented during the engagement process.</p>
Strategy 3- Provide services equitably, with priority on communities of color	Action 3.2- Communicate program and service announcements using culturally specific language and culturally relevant outreach channels.	Ensure the materials supporting this project are informative, culturally relevant and beneficial to everyone involved in the engagement process.