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To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Eben Polk, DTD – Sustainability & Solid Waste Program;
Dan Johnson, DTD-Director
Date: September 27, 2022

Subject: Metro System Facilities Plan Roundtable Invitation

REQUEST: Metro is seeking one Clackamas County Commissioner to attend one upcoming roundtable discussion with other elected officials to discuss the development of a regional Systems Facilities Plan for garbage and recycling infrastructure. The roundtable will be scheduled in late October or early November.

As of the drafting of this memo (9/19) staff have advised Metro on the potential dates and times under consideration (including 10/31 and 11/2), but the details have not been settled. An invitation with additional context will reach the Board in coming days.

About the Systems Facilities Plan project:

Purpose: To assess the current public, private, and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure in the region. The work will identify the places where people lack services, and present potential plans or scenarios for future investments in new facilities or new services.

Why is it important? Decisions about garbage and recycling facilities and the public investment to modify, build new, and operate facilities have implications for our community's access to services. These decisions also impact costs for disposal which in turn impact the garbage and recycling collection costs for which the County and our cities adopt fees. Existing infrastructure for garbage and recycling spans numerous facilities for the transfer and disposal of garbage, sorting and processing of mixed recycling, and accepting sorted items like paint, film plastic, electronic waste, and bottles and cans. Many more organizations and businesses also help prevent waste through donation or repair.

Timeline: The work will be completed in five phases from February 2022 until the winter of 2023 when Metro Council will consider whether to adopt the plan.

Work to date: Metro Council has approved a 'Values and Outcomes' document for the Regional Waste Plan that has been reviewed and discussed at MPAC and is now working on Gap Analysis.

How does it relate to Metro South? For a few years Metro has been searching for a new property to provide all or some of services provided at Metro South. Metro South as currently built is inadequate to meet growing needs. Metro has paused active work on that search to focus on this regional project.

More info: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/garbage-and-recycling-system-facilities-plan>

Attachments: (1) Project Overview flyer; (2) Project Values and Outcomes Summary



Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Project overview

Convenience. Access. Affordability. Everyone, no matter where they live in the region, should have equitable access to garbage and recycling services. But to get there, we need a plan.

Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department is developing a Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan. This project will assess the region's current public, private, and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure, identify service gaps, and present potential plans for future investments in new facilities or new services.

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.

Metro needs your voice to shape the plan

Throughout the plan development, staff will seek to engage potentially affected and interested individuals, communities and organizations, as well as local governments, businesses, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations.

Several advisory groups will provide input at key decision points. These groups include:

- The Metro Policy Advisory Committee
- The Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
- The Committee on Racial Equity
- And a new Community Advisory Group, focused specifically on this plan

Local governments will have a chance to give input through roundtables and small group conversations. Project staff will also engage businesses, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations.

BEYOND CURBSIDE SERVICE

People in greater Portland need better access to services in our garbage and recycling system. Beyond curbside collection, people need convenient and affordable ways to get rid of large items and hazardous wastes.

These expanded services help people get rid of items that are difficult to handle and allow people to keep more things out of the landfill.

Many people across the greater Portland region have unequal access to the services currently provided. This plan could help close the gap for access for many members of our community.



Commitment to equity

There is an inequitable distribution of garbage and recycling services and benefits that impacts communities of color, people living with low incomes and other underserved people.

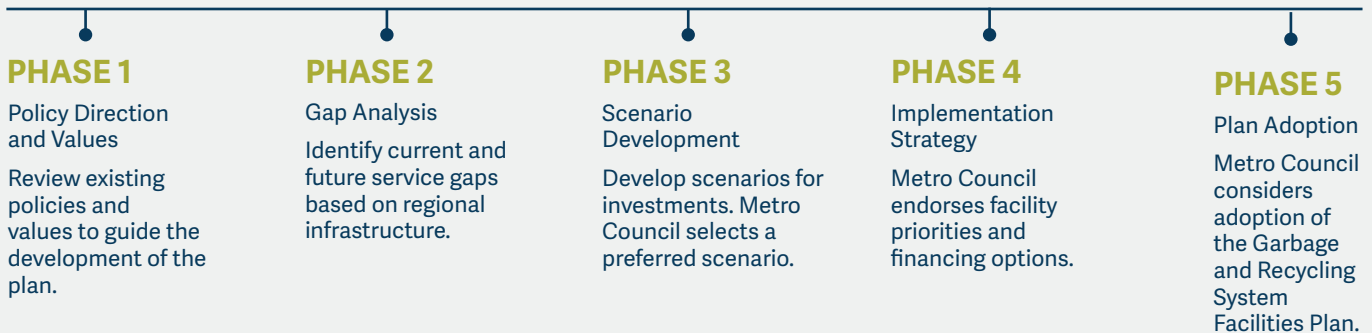
Staff will specifically engage communities of color, urban indigenous peoples and tribal nations and other groups who may be more directly impacted by the decisions that affect the garbage and recycling system, but may have fewer opportunities to influence and shape that system.

Additionally, Metro will use both Metro staff and consultants for planning, research and outreach. Metro seeks to work with COBID-certified firms and consultants with expertise in engaging historically-marginalized communities and developing programs and services that advance racial equity.



PROJECT TIMELINE

The plan will be completed in five phases from February 2022 to Winter 2023:





Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Phase 1: Developing values and outcomes

Overview

Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan set a vision to reduce waste, protect the environment and human health and provide excellent services for everyone. Facilities such as transfer stations or repair, reuse and recycling centers play a key role in managing the things we all throw away.

As the greater Portland region grows, the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan will look at where we can invest in public, private or non-profit facilities or services to make our system work better for everyone.

What is guiding the development of this plan?

The values and racial equity principles of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan guide this work. The plan also includes a new value reflecting Metro's commitment to seek Tribal government consultation. From these values, staff created desired outcomes specific to this new plan. Together, the values and outcomes will steer the development of an investment plan that includes:

- a focus on reducing waste through infrastructure improvements
- improved quality and access to services
- affordable services for everyone

These values and outcomes will guide evaluation of service gaps and investment options and will be used to measure the overall success of the plan over the next 20 years.

The values and outcomes were shaped with input from multiple groups, including Metro Council and four advisory committees: Metro's Committee on Racial Equity, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and a newly formed community advisory group.

A focus on waste reduction

This plan will outline the infrastructure investments necessary to help the region reuse, repair and recycle more materials in order to reduce the negative health and environmental impacts of waste.

New facilities could help the region recover more waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery, instead of sending it to the landfill.

We can have an even greater impact on health and the environment by building infrastructure to reuse and repair more. Reusing and repairing materials not only avoids the health and environmental impacts from landfilling, but helps reduce the need to manufacture new products.



Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Summarized Values and Outcomes:



Healthy people and environment

- Minimize the negative health and environmental impacts of facilities by incorporating innovative sustainability practices as outlined in Metro's green building policy
- Develop good neighbor agreements between communities and facilities



Resource conservation

- Identify the items the plan needs to target for reuse, repair, recycling or composting – and the infrastructure needed to manage them
- Increase access to donate and buy used items
- Provide workspace, reclaimed materials and other types of support to regional reuse and repair initiatives



Environmental literacy

- Provide learning opportunities at facilities through tours, displays, exhibits, viewing rooms
- Develop programming with organizations focused on waste prevention and environmental justice



Economic well-being

- Provide jobs with living wages, benefits, and safe work environments
- Recruit and retain workers who are underrepresented in the garbage and recycling industry
- Create opportunities within the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair sectors for people with barriers to employment



Excellent service and equitable system access

- Develop a network of facilities to provide equitable system access
- Establish direction for Metro transfer stations and Metro solid waste facilities
- Keep facility-based services affordable for low-income customers
- Make public facilities accessible for people with disabilities and people who rely on transit
- Develop multilingual and culturally relevant communication tools for facilities



Operational resilience

- Develop funding options that advance waste reduction and affordability goals
- Design efficient facilities to serve people quickly and recover useful materials
- Identify facility investment needs for natural hazard resilience
- Shape garbage and recycling system with key elements from regional transportation and land use planning efforts



Community restoration

- Evaluate potential facility benefits and burdens using a climate justice lens
- Incorporate the needs of marginalized communities in the planning process



Community partnerships

- Create a Community Advisory Group that works with staff to develop the plan
- Involve community-based organizations in decision-making of facility projects
- Partner with Black, Indigenous, People of Color Communities and immigrant-led organizations to support reuse and repair projects at new facilities



Community investment

- Develop Community Benefits Agreements to ensure benefits are equitably shared and address community needs
- Provide community gathering spaces such as parks and meeting rooms at public facilities that serve residential customers



Tribal consultation

- Seek to consult with Tribal governments to advance shared priorities such as cultural and historic resource protection, environmental protection and resources conservation.
- Establish partnerships with Tribes through government-to-government engagement

For more information, visit
[oregonmetro.gov/
systemfacilitiesplan](https://oregonmetro.gov/systemfacilitiesplan)