



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR MAY 28, 2024

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes (joined at 5:46 p.m.), Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco, Councilor Octavio Gonzalez

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Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### **1. Current Regional Transportation Issues & Priorities for 2025.**

City Engineer Mike McCarthy and Management Analyst Cody Fields presented an update on regional transportation. Analyst Fields discussed the future TriMet Transit Planning (Forward Together 2.0), an effort to restore and grow service, projecting into 2045 for bus and MAX services. The goals are to increase ridership and mode share, respond to community needs, and position TriMet and partners for future funding. Engineer McCarthy mentioned he submitted feedback on the routes being studied to streamline future routes and provide additional service.

Council President Pratt inquired about the expanded Route 76 and the limited hours for Route 96. Analyst Fields explained the future service changes affecting those routes.

Councilor Brooks asked about the FX System Plan. Analyst Fields stated it involves high-capacity frequency lines, with ongoing efforts to expand these lines.

Mayor Bubenik noted that former Councilor Kellogg, now part of TriMet's Board, is working to retain line 96, which faces elimination if ridership does not improve.

Analyst Fields addressed the status of Washington County's 2023-2028 MSTIP funding cycle. He stated the WCCC approved county staff's proposed MSTIP 3f allocation recommendation, totaling \$250 million. The package includes \$17.3 million for Herman Road/Cipole intersection improvements. Analyst Fields highlighted a 5% reduction in funding for the next year approved by the board of commissioners.

Council President Pratt asked about the origin of MSTIP funds. Analyst Fields explained it started as a levy and is now part of the county's budget.

Analyst Fields stated Metro is developing programs for their Regional Flexible Fund Allocations and is seeking support for new bond issues. He stated JPACT will further consider program direction in June. Analyst Fields stated there will be twelve upcoming meetings for the Joint Commission on Transportation Special Subcommittee, discussing the need for stable transportation funding. Public comments will be accepted at these meetings.

Council President Pratt asked if Regional Flexible Funds would cover projects like the SW Corridor. Analyst Fields stated he has not seen proposals for the funds yet.

Analyst Fields then discussed ODOT funding and revenue needs, noting the necessity for structural reform to the State Highway Fund to avoid future service reductions. He stated with adequate and reliable funding, ODOT will prioritize restoring essential maintenance services,

addressing safety issues, and fulfilling HB 2017 commitments. Analyst Fields explained that ODOT's budget is split between capital projects and maintenance/agency operations. Capital Projects are funded by federal and state funds, while Maintenance and Agency Operations are funded by the State Highway Fund, supported by gas tax, motor carrier fees, and DMV fees. He highlighted the funding challenges due to declining fuel tax revenue, reliance on few revenue sources, rigid statutory structures, and rising inflation. Analyst Fields stated there is an estimated \$1.8 billion funding gap if revenue remains unchanged. Future options include indexing fees to inflation, a road user charge, tolling, general fund sources, and other yet-to-be-identified solutions.

Analyst Fields shared the budget for the 2027-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), noting reductions in each funding category for the coming year.

Council President Pratt asked if a DMT (Distance Measuring Tool) could capture out-of-state travelers. Engineer McCarthy stated that this is under debate if that is the right tool to use.

Councilor Brooks inquired about ODOT's debt payments, given that it is a significant portion of the budget. Analyst Fields suggested they are related to past bonds but offered to look into it further.

Engineer McCarthy and Mayor Bubenik recapped their JPACT trip to Washington DC, advocating for transportation funding in the region.

Councilor Sacco asked if there is a strategy that Councilors can use to help advocate for funding for the bridge. Mayor Bubenik stated they can work with representatives on the transportation committee on initiatives like that.

## ***2. Neighborhood Transportation Safety Program Update.***

City Engineer Mike McCarthy and Engineer Associate Abby McFetridge presented information on the city's Neighborhood Transportation Safety Program. Associate McFetridge stated this is an annual program that was established based on previous success and positive community feedback. She mentioned the program is funded at \$150,000 per fiscal year and is supported by the City's Road Operating Fund. Associate McFetridge stated project suggestions are submitted by the public through an online survey. She stated the program timeline gathers suggestions in the fall, with the cycle ending in the summer when the selected projects are constructed.

Associate McFetridge explained the program has two criteria tiers. Tier 1 consists of projects located in Tualatin on City streets, estimated to cost less than \$100,000, and within the scope of transportation safety. Tier 2 criteria have four guiding principles: equity, impact, safety, and feasibility.

Associate McFetridge stated they received 123 suggestions, including new and carryover suggestions from previous years. She stated 43 suggestions met Tier 1 and were then evaluated for Tier 2. Associate McFetridge further stated that 11 projects were then forwarded to the steering group for evaluation, where three projects were advanced to conceptual design: Ibach and Grahams Ferry crosswalk with additional Ibach and Boones improvements, Sagert Street Bridge lights, and Tualatin Road and Herman Road striping and cycling improvements.

Councilor Brook asked if the program addresses safety concerns outside of bike and pedestrian issues. Engineer McCarthy stated it is open to all safety concerns.

Councilor Brooks inquired if the program aligns with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs related to safety. Engineer McCarthy explained that the CDBG uses federal funding and the city aims to keep this program nimble, so merging the two could create barriers when federal funding is introduced. He noted however, staff looks to leverage additional funding dollars when appropriate.

Council President Pratt asked about the Ibach crosswalk improvements project and if the missing crosswalk piece is being added as part of this. Engineer McCarthy stated staff can look into the missing crosswalk she is referring to.

Councilor Sacco asked for the ratio of projects in the equity areas, expressing a desire to ensure that project suggestions are being received from those areas. If not, she emphasized the need for sufficient outreach. Associate McFetridge stated they can evaluate that now that the suggestion form is electronic and provide that information during the next cycle.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how to submit requests that come to Council to staff. Associate McFetridge stated they should be referred to the survey to submit the suggestions for evaluations.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the jurisdiction of Nyberg Lane. Engineer McCarthy clarified that Nyberg Lane falls under Tualatin's jurisdiction, despite being in Clackamas County. Councilor Gonzalez then inquired about who he could speak with regarding the adoption of the road. City Manager Lombos responded that the city currently does not have a program for road adoption at this time.

### **3. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.**

Councilor Sacco stated she attended the council sub-committee on council rules meeting and the IDEA committee meeting.

Councilor Hillier stated she attended the council sub-committee on council rules meeting.

Councilor Reyes and Gonzalez thanked city staff for their work at the Memorial Day event.

Councilor Brooks attended the Midwest CIO meeting and the Memorial Day event.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the C4 Metro sub-committee meeting, Commissioner Harrington's budget proposal, and the Memorial Day event.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the JPACT trip in Washington DC, the Key Leaders meeting for Communities that Care, the Metro Mayors Consortium meeting, the Clackamas County Mayors meeting, and the Washington County Coordinating Committee meeting. He thanked Jess Thompson and the VFW for hosting the Memorial Day Celebration. Mayor Bubenik reminded everyone that the River Park CIO will be hosting their neighborhood fair on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Jurgens Park.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

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