



Greater Portland Metro Finance Committee
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 4:00 pm
DRAFT Meeting Minutes:

Member:	Municipality:	Role:	Status:
Paul Bradbury	Portland	Chair	Present
Josh Reny	South Portland	Vice Chair	Present
Merrill Barter	Falmouth	Member	Present
Tom Poirier	Gorham	Member	Present
Ed Suslovic	Portland	Non-voting Attendee	Present
Lou Simms	Gorham	Non-voting Attendee	Present

Staff Present	Identified Members of the Public
Shelly Brooks – Chief Financial Officer	Brendan O’Connell- Finance Director, City of Portland
Glenn Fenton – Executive Director	
Megan Hannan – Dir. of Gov’t Affairs & Cmty Engagement	
Mike Trembley – Dir. of Transit Development	
Chad Hind – Chief Transportation Officer	

- I. **With a Quorum in place, this meeting was called to Order By:** Paul Bradbury at: 4:03 pm
- II. **Public Comment:**
No members of public requested to speak.
- III. **Approval of September 24, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes:**
Josh Reny motioned, seconded by Merrill Barter to approve the September 24, 2025 meeting minutes. After a roll call, it was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Micro Transit Cost Allocation:**
Shelly Brooks presented a revised cost / revenue allocation on micro-transit for approval. Motion to include the methodology for the 2026 budget (not ongoing) by Josh Reny and seconded by Merrill Barter. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously approved.
- V. **2026 Operating and Capital Budgets**

Glenn Fenton presented information about the ARPA improved routes as requested at the last meeting and for context in the budget.

Shelly Brooks then presented the updated 2026 operating and capital budget drafts. The original budget had a \$2M deficit, this budget it balanced. This was achieved by reducing expenses by \$628K, the majority in wages. Revenue was increased by about \$1.3M, based on increased ridership, an anticipated fare increase, and state and Federal funding. Metro recommends utilizing \$300,000 in carryover funds. This would help mitigate the financial impact on communities that previously had enhanced routes funded by ARPA, as they would otherwise experience substantial increases in their share. In the future, Metro will work toward increasing state funding.

Shelly Brooks then moved to changes in the capital improvement budget. A federally and locally funded bus wash program is moving to maintenance equipment. General bus stop improvement local match will be reallocated to the Transit Stop Access Project.

Operating and Capital Budget Vote: Moved by Josh Reny, seconded by Merrill Barter.

Public comment by Brendan O'Connell discussed grants ending and referenced the rise of Portland residents' taxes. He also said he understands that Portland's assessment does go up and down. He requested that staff send additional detail of the following two items; what Portland's assessment would be without the ARPA service improvements, and all of the Municipal assessments for the past 5 years. Finance Committee Chair Paul Bradbury requested that the requested supporting items be sent to all Finance Committee members.

After a roll call vote, the budget was unanimously approved to present to the full board October 23.

VI. Future Agenda Items:

- Workplan Development (Strategic Plan)- Ongoing
- Review Financial Policies (Fund Balance/Procurement)- TBD
- Long Range Financial Forecasting- Ongoing
- Electric Buses- KPIs and Cost Analysis- TBD
- ~~Micro transit Cost Analysis- September/October 2025~~
- Federal and State Funding Outlook- Ongoing
- **Add:** Identify benchmarks for increasing revenue

VII. Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~Finance Committee – October 15, 2025 at 4:00 pm~~
- Executive Committee – October 16, 2025 at 3:30 pm

- Board of Directors – October 23, 2025 at 4:00 pm
- Finance Committee – November 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm
- Mkt/Coms Committee – November 12, 2025 at 3:00 pm
- Plan/Ops Committee – November 19, 2025 at 10:30 am
- Advocacy Committee – November 19, 2025 at 4:30 pm

VIII. Adjournment: Merrill Barter motioned, Tom Poirier seconded. Paul Bradbury adjourned the meeting at 5:10.