

DRAFT Values, Outcomes and Actions (VOA) for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update

The purpose of this document is to convey overarching values and priority outcomes for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. The VOA is intended to provide focus and guide planning and engagement activities throughout the process in a way that addresses new and ongoing needs and concerns facing our region that were identified through the extensive engagement activities conducted over the past six months. In addition to addressing any new federal or state transportation planning requirements, a core purpose of each RTP update is to ensure the plan is relevant in addressing new or ongoing needs and concerns related to the region's transportation system.

Metro staff drafted the values and outcomes below based on input received during the 2023 RTP scoping phase. For the past 6 months, the project team has engaged hundreds of people across the region to identify transportation trends and challenges affecting how people travel in the region, urgent challenges and priorities for the update to address and ways to engage local, regional and state public officials and staff, community-based organizations, business groups and community members in developing the updated plan..

The values and outcomes have been reviewed and discussed by the Metro Council, Metro's Committee on Racial Equity (CORE), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC). These committees will play an important role in the development and final adoption of the RTP in 2023. The draft values, outcomes and actions will continue to be discussed as part of the 2023 RTP update.

VALUE: ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

OUTCOMES

- Patterns of historic, systemic racism and inequities related to transportation in the region are recognized and addressed, focusing on racial equity and income disparities.
- Transportation system inequities are eliminated rather than just mitigating or doing no harm.
- The voices of people and organizations representing Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities and other marginalized and underserved communities are centered throughout the planning process to achieve transportation equity for all.
- Connectivity to jobs and key community places (such as medical, grocery, social and community services) is improved within the region especially for marginalized communities.
- The RTP update leads to an equitable transportation system that connects all people to their destinations.

KEY ACTIONS

- Build on and carry forward the transportation needs and priorities identified in prior outreach and engagement of community members and partners across the region.
- Center the needs and priorities of BIPOC and other marginalized and underserved communities throughout the planning and policymaking process – from setting goals and priorities to policy development to collecting and analyzing data to prioritizing projects to evaluating success.
- Work with decision-makers on a common definition of equity and clear understanding of what investments are needed and where to advance racial equity and implement the regional transportation equity policies.
- Value lived experience and qualitative data, not just quantitative data.

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- Update equity data and analysis methods using Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) to identify areas of concentration of BIPOC and other marginalized and underserved communities to be prioritized for investment.
- Evaluate whether marginalized communities are being disproportionately impacted by the RTP project and program priorities – and if so, recommend actions to avoid, reduce, and/or mitigate identified impacts.
- Build capacity of community partners to participate in and influence the planning process.
- Ensure that community partners have input and influence both how equity data is presented in the RTP and how results are interpreted and communicated. Build a shared understanding of the causes of displacement and develop new policies and best practices for community stability
- for integration into the plans and projects in the RTP to address potential displacement of low-income and BIPOC communities.

VALUE: CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE

OUTCOMES

- ~~A transportation system that is resilient in the face of climate change~~
- The region is a leader in reducing carbon emissions.
- The RTP meets or exceeds the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets set for the region.
- Investments in the RTP support future development and affordable housing in transit corridors and centers designated in the 2040 Growth Concept, where services are located and more travel options are available.
- The RTP leads the transition to a low-carbon transportation system by planning for and investing in low-carbon travel options and supporting infrastructure and services.
- Pricing tools are used as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the tools identified in Metro's *Regional Congestion Pricing Study* (RCPS) Report, the Statewide Transportation Strategy for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and ODOT's Regional Mobility Pricing Project.
- Low-carbon technology is included in planning, policies, and projects, including electric vehicles, electric bikes, electric scooters and other emerging technology to help meet emission reduction targets.
- The resilience of the transportation system is increased to the effects of climate disruption and other disasters.

KEY ACTIONS

- Evaluate progress toward implementing the Climate Smart Strategy and reducing GHG emissions to ensure that GHG targets are achievable and meaningful.
- Update the Climate Smart Strategy to incorporate the latest data, best practices and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our region.
- Update vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita reduction target to align with meeting state greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- Improve data, methods and analysis tools to advance the region's ability to evaluate progress in meeting state-mandated targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled per capita.
- Prioritize multi-modal projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including but not limited

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to transit, biking and walking, shared trips and other types of low-carbon mobility options.

- Develop policies on congestion pricing to provide a framework in the RTP that informs individual projects and plans that include congestion pricing or tolling.
- Consider emerging trends in technology and statewide efforts to plan for and expand electric vehicle charging opportunities as part of updating the Climate Smart Strategy.
- Revisit and refine the Climate Smart Strategy policies and fully incorporate the updated policies in the RTP, including:
 - Implement adopted local and regional land use plans.
 - Make transit convenient, frequent, accessible and affordable.
 - Make biking and walking safe and convenient.
 - Make streets and highways safe, reliable and connected.
 - Use technology to actively manage the transportation system.
 - Provide information and incentives to expand the use of travel options.
 - Make efficient use of vehicle parking and reduce the amount of land dedicated to parking.
 - Support Oregon's transition to cleaner, low carbon fuels and more fuel-efficient vehicles.
 - Secure adequate funding for transportation investments the support the Climate Smart Strategy.
- Incorporate best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.
- Increase charging opportunities for electric vehicles.
- Update resilience related policies to further address the federal resilience planning factor and incorporate the Phase 1 Regional Emergency Transportation Routes (ETR) map and findings.

VALUE: SAFE AND HEALTHY STREETS

OUTCOMES

- Safety is improved for all travelers.

Zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2035, where everyone feels safe, comfortable and welcome, regardless of how and when they travel. **KEY ACTIONS**

- Prioritize investments in universal design¹ and high-quality, connected, and safe pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks, focusing on increasing safety in high-risk locations and on high injury corridors in Equity Focus Areas.
- Update High Injury Corridors to identify corridors to be prioritized for investment to complete all gaps in regional bicycle and pedestrian networks and ensure safe and convenient access to transit stops and stations.
- Identify best practices and strategies for investing in the region's urban arterials, many of which are High Injury Corridors.
- Develop an approach for urban arterials in the region that aims to address their complex needs,

¹ Universal design in this context means planning to build physical environments so that they are accessible to and usable by all people, regardless of age, disability or other factors. While universal design promotes access for people experiencing a disability, it also benefits others.

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including the need for investment in safety and related bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure using urban design best practices and standards.

- Adopt policies and frameworks to allow for transfer of state-owned urban arterials to local jurisdictions, when and where appropriate, using the best practices and findings of Metro's Jurisdictional Transfer Assessment (JTA) Study.

VALUE: EQUITABLE MOBILITY

OUTCOMES

- The transportation system is adequately maintained in a consistent state of good repair.
- Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community members and people with low incomes, youth, older adults, people living with disabilities and other marginalized and underserved communities have equitable mobility and access to safe, reliable and affordable travel options, job opportunities, and key community places (such as medical, school, grocery, social and community services).
- Regionally agreed upon policies for congestion pricing and tolling the region's Interstate System.
- People and businesses can safely, affordably, and efficiently reach the goods, services, places, and opportunities they need to thrive by a variety of seamless and well-connected travel options and services that are welcoming, convenient, comfortable, and reliable.

KEY ACTIONS

- Prioritize investments that ensure that Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community members and people with low incomes, youth, older adults, people living with disabilities and other historically marginalized and underserved communities experience equitable mobility.
- Update the Regional High Capacity Transit (HCT) Strategy and vision for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to provide equitable access to rapid transit across the region.
- Adopt a new multimodal urban mobility policy and standard, as developed in the Regional Mobility Policy Update, that provides a new approach to measuring the movement of people and goods and adequacy of the transportation system.
- Develop regional congestion pricing and tolling policies.
- Incorporate findings from the Regional Freight Delay Study, taking into account new trends and changes in urban freight, such as the increase of front-door delivery.
- Consider the growth in freight at ports and intermodal facilities, and the increasing number of distribution centers in our region in evaluating regional mobility.
- Provide accessible, safe, affordable, and equitable transportation options to better connect people with opportunities and to the destinations they want to reach (e.g., education, jobs, services, shopping, places of worship, parks and open spaces, and community centers).
- Manage congestion on the throughway system by implementing a comprehensive urban mobility strategy that includes congestion pricing and other demand management and system management tools and expanding safe, reliable and affordable travel options.
- Connect affordable transportation options to affordable housing to increase access to low-income persons.
- ~~Identify opportunities to increase affordable transportation access to low-income and middle-income jobs.~~

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- Examine how existing Transit Oriented Development programs and development can align with and support affordable housing programs to provide affordable housing with direct access to frequent bus service and the high capacity transit network.

VALUE: THRIVING ECONOMY

OUTCOMES

- The region's target traded-sector clusters² and businesses are served by a multimodal transportation system that provides reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, markets and destinations within and beyond the region.
 - Thriving businesses in downtowns and main streets, along transit corridors and in industrial areas and employment centers.
 - Improved workforce access to job opportunities, particularly by transit.
- Housing, transportation and equitable economic development are linked, saving households and businesses money, supporting job creation, emerging markets and access to jobs, and increasing access to opportunities, goods and services people and businesses need to thrive.

KEY ACTIONS

- Engage the business, freight, economic development and labor community throughout the process.
- Increase affordable transportation access to low-income and middle-income jobs and educational opportunities.
- Improve access to industrial and employment areas and intermodal facilities identified in the *Greater Portland Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*.
- Use the Economic Value Atlas to help identify investments that will improve access to family-wage jobs and support growing and emerging industries.
- Complete the Regional Freight Delay and Commodities Movement Study to identify the level and value of commodity movement on the regional freight network and explore how e-commerce is impacting and benefiting the transportation system and regional economy.

VALUE: ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

OUTCOMES

- Community members, the business community and a diverse range of stakeholders are engaged through a transparent and inclusive decision-making process within meaningful opportunities for input.
- The interrelationships between climate, safety and equity are communicated throughout the process – marginalized communities have identified climate and safety as equity issues, because they disproportionately experience the impacts. Prioritize the many investments that address all of these priorities.

KEY ACTIONS

² The CEDS region's seven target traded-sector clusters are defined as: computers and electronics, software, apparel and outdoor, metals and machinery, food beverage, climate tech and design and media sectors.

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- Build on the extensive community input provided during 2018 RTP update, development of the regional investment measure and the 2023 RTP scoping phase to shape the 2023 RTP policies, analysis, investment priorities, and public engagement approach.
- Seek opportunities to build on and communicate past engagement that informed development of local transportation system plans and community priorities.
- Communicate the RTP's emphasis on equity, and particularly on the projects that can help eliminate transportation disparities, to partners early and throughout the process.
- Support community partners in shaping the 2023 RTP, including those elements that are led by partner agencies, and strengthen requirements for agency partners to collect and respond to community feedback when developing and prioritizing projects.
- Develop and use data, tools, and best practices that can support future local and regional planning and investment decisions.
- Report out progress on RTP at all stages of decision-making to allow for public participation and input.
- Monitor and report progress toward 2023 RTP values and outcomes at key project milestones.
- Prioritize transformational change (decision-making processes throughout the RTP update) over merely relying on transactional change (the final decision).
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