



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

# Memo

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017  
To: Martha Bennett  
From: Craig Beebe and Tyler Frisbee  
Subject: Update on potential 2018 regional transportation funding ballot measure

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Discussions around a potential 2018 regional transportation funding ballot measure continue at Metro and around the Portland region. This memo provides a brief update on the current status of those discussions, as well as a recap of recent briefings with individual Metro councilors.

Such a measure would be referred to the region's voters by TriMet. The focus of the measure has been to build the local match for the Southwest Corridor project. After hearing feedback from the Metro Council, the City of Portland and community advocates, TriMet has agreed to consider a larger package that could secure political and community support. The passage of the state transportation package has also affected the process for the measure.

TriMet, working with Metro and the City of Portland, is preparing to convene a community committee to develop a project list for a 2018 measure. The committee's members would include representatives of community-based organizations, transportation advocates and business leaders, with representation from throughout greater Portland. It would be facilitated by an outside party, with meetings beginning this summer and running through the fall.

TriMet has told Metro and regional partners that its board will decide to proceed with a 2018 ballot measure if the community committee can successfully develop a project list that achieves above 60% support in a poll of likely voters. The board's decision must be made by early 2018.

Metro staff held a series of briefings with each member of the Metro Council in late June and early July. These briefings' purpose was to update councilors on the development of a 2018 measure, discuss potential outcomes and seek their guidance as to the role Metro Council and staff should play in the coming months. The briefings also included discussions of the 2017 legislative transportation package. Metro staff present at these briefings included Craig Beebe, Tyler Frisbee and Andy Shaw, along with councilors' respective policy coordinators.

There was broad agreement among the Council members, even without any group conversation. Councilors individually asked staff to actively work with TriMet in the development and process of the 2018 community committee. Councilors expressed a strong interest in ensuring that the committee is representative of the region as a whole. They also sought to ensure the committee and project selection process reflects key concerns, including congestion relief, safety and equity.

Whatever goes on a 2018 regional ballot measure, the region will need to continue exploring further funding options to meet growing transportation needs as our population and economy grow. Councilors agreed that Metro staff should continue activities that could prepare for a potential regional transportation ballot measure after 2018, and should, to the extent possible, look for ways to leverage the 2018 ballot measure process to support a future measure. These activities include completion of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and investment strategy, coalition development and community engagement, ongoing transportation communications, and research into public opinion and revenue options. Staff will continue developing a transportation funding work plan that reflects Council's input.

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