

Memo

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
To: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation and Interested Parties
From: Grace Cho, Senior Transportation Planner
Subject: 2027-2030 MTIP Program Direction and Work Program

Purpose

Provide JPACT an overview on the program direction and the work plan for the 2027-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Introduction and Background

As the metropolitan planning organization for the greater Portland metropolitan region, Metro leads the development and approves programming decisions of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The MTIP is multifaceted program which administers and documents compliance with federal transportation funding and project programming regulations, including: 1) a listing of the regionally significant transportation investment priorities for the upcoming fiscal years; 2) a description of regional engagement and process in identifying and measuring the performance of those investments; 3) consistency with the long-range transportation plan (a.k.a. the Regional Transportation Plan) and 4) monitoring and reporting of MTIP implementation. As part of developing the MTIP and maintaining eligibility for federal transportation funds, key MTIP partners (ODOT, TriMet, SMART, and Metro) demonstrate how the region works together to achieve the common goal of implementing the most recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and comply with applicable federal regulations.

JPACT is a joint decision-making committee to Metro on metropolitan transportation planning activities and plays a role in the development and recommending approval of the MTIP. In efforts to support JPACT in this role, Metro staff aims to keep JPACT informed, primarily through presentations at TPAC, and provide opportunities for input and engagement on the funding allocation activities which will request inclusion of their project funding decisions in the draft 2027-2030 MTIP. Recognizing several key 2027-2030 MTIP development activities will occur throughout 2024 and 2025, the program direction and work plan are to assist JPACT in advising key MTIP partners – Metro, ODOT, TriMet, and SMART – on the 2027-2030 MTIP activities and development.¹

2027-2030 MTIP – Development Activities

The development of the 2027-2030 MTIP began in spring 2023 with the discussions of ODOT’s revenue estimates and allocations to funding programs for federal fiscal years 2028-2030. JPACT and the Metro Council provided comments to the Oregon Transportation Commission on regional priorities for the allocation of funds to the ODOT funding programs. This is an example of how Metro facilitates coordination across the four key partners – Metro, ODOT, TriMet, and SMART – who each play a significant role in the development of the MTIP through their individual allocations federal surface transportation funding.

¹ JPACT plays a role in the development of the upcoming MTIP (i.e. the 2027-2030 MTIP) as well as in the administration of the current MTIP (i.e. the 2024-2027 MTIP). These activities usually operate in parallel, but most commonly activities related to the administration of the current MTIP come to TPAC, JPACT and the Metro Council in the form of MTIP amendments to funded projects.

Thus, the development of 2027-2030 MTIP is underway. There remains a number of planning activities prior to the adoption of the 2027-2030 MTIP scheduled for July 2026. To date, Metro staff brought forward or plans to have the region participate in the following 2027-2030 MTIP development activities:

Past/Current Activities

- ODOT's 2027-2030 STIP development (July 2023 – On-Going)
 - Overview on revenue estimates, fiscal outlook, state priorities, and updated state policies/plans (TPAC, July 2023)
 - Revenue estimate and allocation of 2028-2030 revenues to ODOT funding programs
 - MPO comment letter development, approval, and submission to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) (TPAC & JPACT, October 2023)
 - Update on ODOT staff recommendation on the revenue allocation to ODOT funding programs going before the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) (TPAC & JPACT, November 2023)
 - Update on OTC action and next steps for funding allocations (January 2024)
- Initial draft 2027-2030 MTIP revenue forecast (TPAC, February 2024)
- 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation (RFFA) Program Direction (TPAC & JPACT, February 2024)

Upcoming Activities

- Revise 2027-2030 MTIP financial forecast (as needed)
- Review and potentially recommend regional comment on Metro area interests to ODOT funding program allocations for federal fiscal years 2028-2030 (also referred to as the 2027-2030 STIP development) (July 2023 – Early Winter 2025)
 - For funding programs led by ODOT Region 1 office (i.e., Fix-It, ARTS)
 - For funding programs led by central ODOT (i.e., Great Streets, Carbon Reduction, Community Paths, Safe Routes to School, etc.)
- Review and potentially recommend regional comment on TriMet and SMART Annual Budget Process – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Spring 2024)
- 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund allocation process and recommendation to JPACT/Metro Council (February 2024 – Summer 2025)
- Provide input on the update to the methodology for evaluation the 2027-2030 MTIP package of transportation investments² (TPAC, 2024 – Summer 2025)

2027-2030 MTIP Program Direction – Overview and Purpose

In December 2023, the region achieved a milestone when MPAC and JPACT approved the and the Metro Council adopted the 2023 RTP. In the adoption of the 2023 RTP, the region updated its long-range vision for the transportation system, revised and added new policies to achieve the vision, set forth the region's long-term investment strategy to support the Plan's policies, and communicated a set of near-term transportation investment priority outcomes.

² Investments identified for the evaluation stage are those projects which were awarded and/or programmed for funding within the federal fiscal year 2027-2030 timeframe.

The newly adopted 2023 RTP aligns to the development cycle for the 2027-2030 MTIP and is the first opportunity to implement the policy direction from the Plan. The purpose of the 2027-2030 MTIP program direction is to incorporate and operationalize RTP policy objectives and investment priorities in this early stage of the 2027-2030 MTIP development process. The program direction communicates to key MTIP partners the regional policy priorities and outcomes expected to be considered as those partners prioritize transportation projects and programs for funding. As the 2027-2030 MTIP is compiled, those partners will be expected to document how their funding decisions accommodated consideration of the regional policy priorities and how the projects requesting inclusion in the MTIP make progress towards those policy priorities and outcomes.³

2027-2030 MTIP Program Direction – Key Elements and Updates

To guide the development of the 2027-2030 MTIP, federal law provides the foundation for all metropolitan transportation improvement programs. Two required elements for the MTIP are:

1. Consistency and implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plans (RTP)
2. Federal regulations outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23 Chapter I, Subchapter E – Planning and Research, Part 450 – Metropolitan Planning

Per direction from federal rules the 2027-2030 MTIP program direction reaffirms federal regulations and how they are operationalized specific to the Portland metropolitan region.

Additionally, the 2027-2030 MTIP program direction will include an updated regional funding approach, revised to reflect changes in various federal and state funding programs as a result of federal transportation reauthorizations and state direction. The regional funding approach was first developed and approved by JPACT and adopted by the Metro Council in 2009, with revisions in 2016. In recognition over the course of the next 1-2 years the region as well as the state legislature will have a discussion on funding and potential transportation revenue package, Metro staff proposes an interim status for the regional funding approach in efforts to guide the development of transportation funding and allocation activities taking place which form the 2027-2030 MTIP. The regional funding approach will then be updated with the outcomes of those transportation funding activities should any new actions occur.

2027-2030 MTIP – Work Plan

While the 2027-2030 MTIP development began spring 2023 there remains a number of activities to complete prior to the adoption of the 2027-2030 MTIP. To provide clarity and allow partners to anticipate key activities, Metro staff developed an At-A-Glance (attachment 1) summary work plan for the 2027-2030 MTIP. The work plan breaks up the development of the 2027-2030 MTIP into five phases of work: 1) revenue forecast and program direction; 2) funding allocations; 3) building the MTIP and technical evaluation; 4) public comment; and 5) adoption.

The 2027-2030 MTIP comprises of the funding allocation direction and decisions by Metro (metropolitan planning organization), ODOT (state department of transportation), TriMet and SMART (transit agencies). Each individual agency has its own specific work plan for their funding allocation processes (phase 2 of the MTIP development), which comprises of the majority of the MTIP development. Local agencies will also be asked to provide project descriptions on any regionally significant projects they plan to construct in the MTIP time period for analytical

³ Metro and ODOT previously allocated transportation funding identified for federal fiscal year 2027 in the development of the 2024-2027 MTIP. Whereas transit agencies conduct their allocation process annually through their budget process.

purposes. In the third phase, the funding allocation decisions by each agency are compiled together to build the 2027-2030 MTIP public review draft. The public review draft is analyzed to assess the performance of the MTIP package relative to regional policy objectives, near-term investment priorities, and federal requirements.

While the various funding allocation processes are taking place during phase 2, Metro, as the metropolitan planning organization, will take responsibility in coordinating, sharing information (e.g., work plans), and engaging the key MTIP partners to understand how their selection processes have considered regional objectives. These coordination efforts help ensure JPACT remain informed and provide ample opportunity prior to acting on the 2027-2030 MTIP in 2026.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there questions or comments regarding the program direction for the 2027-2030 MTIP?
2. Are there any questions or comments regarding the 2027-2030 MTIP work program?

Next Steps

The following timeline illustrate the next steps for the 2027-2030 MTIP development.

Timeline – Upcoming 2027-2030 MTIP Development Activities

Activity	Timeframe
<i>Program Direction</i>	
TPAC and JPACT introduction to the program direction	February 2024
Input and formation of the draft program direction	March – April 2024
TPAC and JPACT recommendation to adopt program direction	Spring/early summer 2024
<i>Funding Allocations</i>	
2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund program direction	February – Spring/early Summer 2024
ODOT funding allocations	2024 – November 2025
Transit agency annual budget process and investment program presentations	Spring 2024, 2025, 2026
2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund – Step 2 – allocation process	Summer 2024 – Summer 2025
<i>Packaging the 2027-2030 MTIP</i>	
Compilation of draft 2027-2030 MTIP investment program	Summer – end 2025
Compilation of the public review draft of the 2027-2030 MTIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System performance evaluation of MTIP investment program and RTP consistency analysis • Federal performance target evaluation • Federal regulatory compliance demonstration • Allocation process discussion 	January – March 2026
Public comment on the public review draft 2027-2030 MTIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes formal resource agency and tribal consultation 	April – May 2026
Preview 2027-2030 MTIP adoption draft at TPAC and JPACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment summary, findings, and recommendations 	June 2026
Request TPAC recommendation for JPACT approval	July 2026
Request approval of the 2027-2030 MTIP by JPACT	July 2026
Adoption of the 2027-2030 MTIP by the Metro Council	July 2026

