

# METRO COUNCIL

## Work Session Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** Sept. 26, 2017      **LENGTH:** 30 min.

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Transportation Finance Update

**DEPARTMENT:** GAPD

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### WORK SESSION PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Purpose: Provide an update on Metro staff's continuing work with partners on a potential 2018 regional transportation funding measure
- Outcome: Staff receives clear Council direction on principles for continuing engagement, and next steps through the fall

### TOPIC BACKGROUND & FRAMING THE WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

Transportation is where many of the Council's desired outcomes for an equitable, prosperous, healthy and livable region intersect. Residents, businesses, community organizations and Metro's jurisdictional partners desire and need reliable, safe and affordable transportation options throughout greater Portland. To keep our roads, bridges, streets and transit working for everyone as the region continues to grow – and to make progress on the 2040 Growth Concept – the Council and many of our partners have clearly identified the need for additional regional transportation funding.

Since summer 2016, TriMet has been leading the development of a regional transportation ballot measure aimed at November 2018. For more than a year, the Council and Metro staff have engaged in ongoing conversations about the shape of the measure with TriMet and jurisdictions from around the region, as well as community partners. At two 2016 retreats and in several work sessions, the Council has maintained a clear message to staff and partners that it desires the measure to make a serious contribution toward building the 2040 Growth Concept and advancing its other adopted plans, policies and desired outcomes. Council has also been clear that such a measure should be developed with strong community and coalition support.

A 2018 ballot measure could provide much of the local match for the Southwest Corridor project. What else to include has been subject to more extensive conversation. After hearing feedback from the Council, the City of Portland and advocates, TriMet is considering a larger package, developed with more community input, that could secure broader political and community support. The passage of the state transportation bill in July has also affected the process for developing the measure.

In a series of briefings in June/July 2017, described in the attached memo, the Council directed Metro staff to continue working with TriMet on developing a 2018 measure that would advance its goals, while also keeping an eye toward how to leverage this work for potential future regional funding measures. Councilors suggested they could support a 2018 measure if the process and its outcome reflect the Council's priorities and goals.

Over the summer, staff from GAPD, Planning, Communications and the Council Office have undertaken the following efforts:

- Working with state lawmakers to support the successful passage of a statewide transportation bill that will make major investments in roads, streets, transit, Safe Routes to School and other transportation priorities throughout greater Portland and Oregon;
- Collaborating with TriMet, the City of Portland and other partners to organize a community task force and a leadership committee (JPACT subcommittee) to advise on the selection of projects for a 2018 measure, and agreeing to co-fund the facilitation of this committee;
- Developing a coalition strategy to build capacity and support for a 2018 measure and potential future measures, in coordination with Metro staff working on Parks and Housing funding options;
- Conducting research in partnership with the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the Port of Portland, and providing input to research efforts by TriMet;
- Organizing a Denver best practices trip (following the successful Los Angeles and Seattle best practices trips);
- Completing a set of principles for regional transportation investment packages, reflecting Council input and policy (attached);
- Finalizing a six-month work plan reflecting Council input. The work plan is oriented toward development of a 2018 measure, but also looks for opportunities to leverage work for potential future ballot measures.

Work on the transportation funding measure crosses department lines and must be closely coordinated with other Council priorities, such as parks, housing and equity. Metro staff, led by a Director-level Steering Committee, project sponsor Andy Shaw and project manager Craig Beebe, have created a work plan and project management structure that positions Metro to be an active participant in the 2018 measure development, yet adaptable to changing circumstances.

No decision has yet been made to proceed with a funding measure in 2018. That decision by TriMet's Board of Directors is not expected until January at the earliest.

At this point, staff proposes to conduct the following activities throughout the fall:

- Continue working with TriMet, the City of Portland and other partners on the community and leadership engagement process to develop a potential 2018 ballot measure;
- Conduct technical analysis of potential projects for inclusion in a 2018 measure;
- Engage with potential coalition members who could support regional transportation funding;
- Continue close coordination with efforts for other Metro Council priorities, including Parks and Nature and housing affordability;
- Conduct further research to understand public priorities, concerns and interests in transportation, and how the issue connects with other related issues and Council priorities;
- Continue developing the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan with an eye toward building a successful long-term investment strategy;
- Provide regular updates to Council via work sessions, email and briefings as desired.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

- Does the Council support the draft principles for engagement prepared by staff?
- Does the Council have any questions about any of this material?

#### **PACKET MATERIALS**

- Would legislation be required for Council action Yes **X No**
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? Yes **X No**
- What other materials are you presenting today?
  - *Draft principles for regional transportation investment packages*
  - *July 11, 2017 Memo summarizing Council input from June/July 2017 briefings*