

METRO COUNCIL

Work Session Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: September 26, 2017

LENGTH: 60 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: 2018 Regional Transportation Plan – Project Update & Policy Priorities

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development

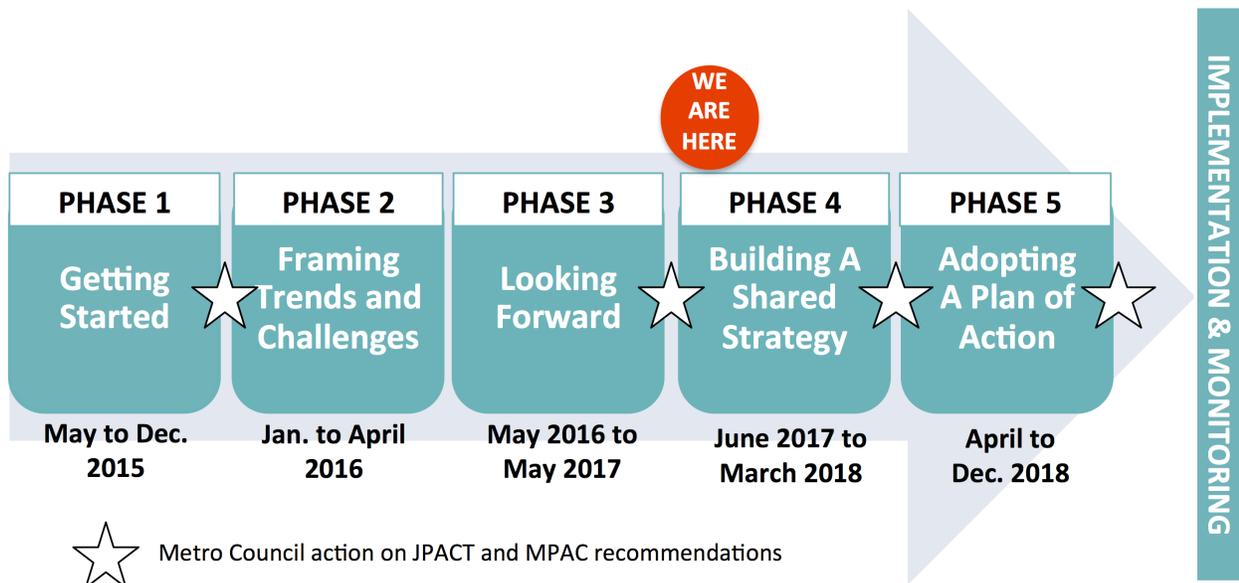
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WORK SESSION PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOMES

- **Purpose:** This work session is an opportunity for the Council to receive a brief project update and discuss policy priorities for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan.
- **Outcome:** The Council will provide direction to staff as to top Council policy priorities for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan.

TOPIC BACKGROUND & FRAMING THE WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

The Portland metropolitan region’s economic prosperity and quality of life depend on a transportation system that provides every person and business in the region with equitable access to safe, efficient, reliable, affordable and healthy travel options. Through the 2018 RTP update, the Metro Council is working with leaders and communities throughout the region to plan the transportation system of the future by updating the region’s shared transportation vision and investment strategy for the next 25 years. Shown in **Figure 1**, the plan update is in Phase 4 and on schedule.



In December 2016 and February 2017, the Council reaffirmed their direction to staff to use development of the 2018 RTP to clearly and realistically communicate our transportation funding outlook and align the financially constrained project list with updated financial assumptions. This direction included developing a pipeline of priority projects for the regional transportation system for Metro and other partners to work together to fund and build. The Council also directed the RTP project list and RTP modal and topical strategies be developed in a transparent way that advances adopted

regional goals, supports regional coalition building efforts, and emphasizes equity, safety and climate change. On May 30, the Council further directed staff to move forward with the 2018 RTP Call for Projects as recommended by the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

Since May 30, staff completed the 2018 RTP Call for Projects and continued to implement the adopted work plan and public engagement plan, consistent with previous Council policy direction. A summary of accomplishments and activities that are underway follows.

Project list development and performance evaluation

- **Call for Projects completed in August.** An initial summary of the projects submitted by partner agencies is attached for reference. Additional project information will be available later this fall in preparation for the on-line comment opportunity planned for early Jan. 2018.
- **System level and transportation equity performance evaluation underway.** Council will discuss preliminary findings and recommendations from the performance evaluation at the work session planned for Dec. 12.
- **Assessment of the pilot project performance evaluation underway.** Council will discuss findings and recommendations from this assessment at the work session planned for Dec. 12.

Policy and technical updates

- **Goals, objectives and policies review underway.** Council will discuss findings and recommendations from this review at the work session planned for Dec. 12.
- **Financially constrained funding assumptions updates to reflect House Bill 2017 underway.** Metro staff will participate in an ODOT-led working group tasked with updating the state transportation revenue forecast this fall. An updated forecast is anticipated in early 2018. Council will discuss the updated forecast when available.
- **Development of a policy framework for transportation technologies underway.** Council will discuss a proposed approach at the work session planned for Oct. 10.
- **Development of a transportation recovery and disaster preparedness element underway.** Metro staff will partner with Portland State University and the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RPDO) to map previously identified regional emergency transportation routes and prepare recommendations for future work and partnerships needed to more fully address this issue in the RTP. Council will discuss the identified regional emergency transportation routes and recommendations for future work in early 2018.

Modal and topic plan development

- **Development of the Regional Transit Strategy continues.** Staff are available to brief Councilors individually this fall/winter if desired. Council will discuss the draft strategy at a work session in early 2018.
- **Update to the Regional Transportation Safety Strategy continues.** Staff are available to brief Councilors individually later this fall/winter if desired. Council will discuss the draft strategy at a work session in early 2018.
- **Update to the Regional Freight Strategy continues.** Staff are available to brief Councilors individually this fall/winter if desired. Council will discuss the draft strategy at a work session in early 2018.

Engagement and outreach

- **Planning for 2018 public engagement and outreach activities underway.** In Jan. 2018, the draft investment priorities submitted by agencies along with findings from the evaluation will be shared with the general public for input during a planned 30-day comment opportunity. The fourth (and final) Regional Leadership Forum is planned for late Feb. 2018 to discuss public input, updated funding information and the results of the technical evaluation, resulting in

additional policy direction to staff on refining investment priorities. Council will discuss 2018 engagement and outreach activities at the work session planned for Dec. 12.

In advance of the upcoming regional policy discussions and decisions, staff compiled a summary of policy priorities expressed by the Council in previous work sessions and individual Councilors throughout the RTP update for discussion on September 26. While important, the Council and staff have limited capacity to address all of the priorities listed by the end of 2018 and some priorities will need to be deferred to post-RTP adoption.

Existing Council policy priorities continue to advance through the 2018 RTP consistent with previous Council direction and are shown in the first attachment in italics. Some of the existing Council priorities are done or mostly done (shown in *regular italics*). Other existing Council priorities will require continued diligence and effort through the end of 2018 (shown in ***bolded italics***).

Given the project timeline and its breadth and considering the level of importance and difficulty of each potential priority as well as existing Council direction, existing Metro policy and legislative actions, and capacity, staff recommends the following additional policy priorities for the 2018 RTP:

- Focus on racial equity
- Implement Vision Zero at a regional scale
- Put the region on productive path to congestion pricing

Each of these policy priorities supports the Council's existing policy priorities and will boldly and meaningfully advance previous direction to emphasize equity, safety and climate change in the 2018 RTP. At the work session, staff will present different strategies for advancing the recommended priorities. The Council will be asked to affirm existing policy priorities and provide direction on staff's recommendation regarding the additional policy priorities (and related strategies) for the 2018 RTP. Specifically, staff seeks direction as to the Council's top policy priorities for the 2018 RTP and how staff should move forward to ensure staff work is aligned to the Council's priorities.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- What are the Council's top policy priorities for the 2018 RTP?
- How would the Council like staff to move forward with addressing the policy priorities?
- What are the best ways to align staff and Council work on next steps?

PACKET MATERIALS

- Would legislation be required for Council action Yes No
- What other materials are you presenting today?
 - *Assessing Policy Priorities for 2018 RTP – discussion draft*
 - *2018 RTP Call for Projects (Sept. 11, 2017)*
 - *Projects delivered since 2014 (Sept. 12, 2017)*
 - *Timeline | 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (Sept. 12, 2017)*