

Date: October 29, 2025
To: Kim Ellis, Climate Program Manager; Ally Holmqvist, Senior Transportation Planner
From: Shawn Canny, City Transportation Planner II; Brenda Martin, Capital Project Manager
Subject: Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension RTP Amendment Request

Overview

This memo formally requests an amendment to the [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) to incorporate the [Locally Preferred Alternative \(LPA\)](#) and updated estimated cost for the [Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Project](#) (Project). It contains the background information needed to help Metro staff to review the requested amendment for consistency with the RTP and develop the legislation and supporting staff reports for consideration by the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), and the Metro Council.

Background

For more than 20 years, the Portland Streetcar has been one of the City of Portland's tools for equitable and sustainable development. Since 2018, the City has been exploring ways to build upon the success of streetcar and connect the existing network to Montgomery Park in Northwest Portland. These efforts culminated in the development and adoption of the [Montgomery Park Area Plan \(MPAP\)](#), which adopted land use and transportation changes to establish a new transit-oriented, mixed-use district in Northwest Portland west of Highway 30 and between NW Nicolai and NW Vaughn streets served by streetcar. Alongside the MPAP, the [Project's Locally Preferred Alternative \(LPA\)](#) was developed, identifying the transit mode, alignment, and general station locations.

Montgomery Park has been identified as a priority destination for major high-capacity transit investment for several years, with previous plans and studies of the area documenting transit issues, potential transit-oriented development, community concerns and goals, and potential solutions. A timeline of the development of planning documents specifically related to the project is as follows:

- The project was first identified for transit investment in the 2009 [Portland Streetcar System Concept Plan](#).
- The [2035 Portland Transportation System Plan \(TSP\)](#), [2018 Metro Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#), and [2018 Metro Regional Transit Strategy](#) all call for a major transit investment to Montgomery Park, with the RTP including the corridor in its financially constrained project list (1139) and the TSP including it on its unconstrained list (60035); the currently ongoing update to the TSP will include the project on its financially constrained list
- In 2018, Portland City Council adopted the [Enhanced Transit Corridors Plan](#) and funded the [Preliminary Northwest Portland Streetcar Extension and Land Use Alternatives Analysis](#).

- In 2019, a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transit-oriented development (TOD) planning grant administered through metro helped fund the [Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy \(MP2H\)](#). In Northwest Portland, MP2H became the Montgomery Park Area Plan (MPAP).
- In 2023, the [Metro High Capacity Transit Strategy](#) prioritized the corridor as a Tier 1 priority for major transit investment (ID C28).
- The 2023 RTP update includes the Project in its [financially constrained project list](#) (11319).
- Portland City Council unanimously adopted [Ordinance 192000](#) on December 11, 2024, adopting the MPAP.
- In December 2024, TriMet submitted a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requesting entry in the Project Development phase of the FTA's Capital Investment Grant Small Starts program. The FTA responded with concurrence in January 2025. The project is listed on the [FTA's CIG program webpage](#).

Additionally, the LPA for the project has been endorsed as follows:

- The Portland City Council unanimously adopted [Resolution 37692](#) to endorse the LPA on December 11, 2024.
- JPACT approved Resolution No. 25-5505 and made a recommendation to the Metro Council for approval on June 26, 2025.
- Metro Council adopted [Resolution No. 25-5505](#) endorsing the LPA on July 31, 2025.

Project Description and Map

The Project will extend the Portland Streetcar North-South (NS) line 0.65 miles one-way (1.3 miles round trip) from its existing terminus at NW 23rd Avenue and NW Northrup Street to a new terminus at NW 26th Avenue and NW Wilson Street near Montgomery Park in Northwest Portland. The streetcar will run northward on NW 23rd Avenue to NW Roosevelt Street and utilize a new one-way parallel couplet with westbound movement on NW Roosevelt Street from NW 23rd Avenue to NW 26th Avenue, southbound movement on NW 26th Avenue from NW Roosevelt Street to NW Wilson Street, and eastbound movement on NW Wilson Street from NW 26th Avenue to NW 23rd Avenue. The streetcar will then return southbound on NW 23rd Avenue to connect to the existing streetcar tracks south of NW Northrup Street. General station locations are at NW 23rd and Raleigh Street (northbound and southbound), NW 25th Avenue and NW Roosevelt Street (westbound) and NW 26th Avenue and Wilson Street (eastbound/end-of-line).

The Project includes the following scope elements (for more detail, see [MPAP Volume 3: Transportation Plan](#)):

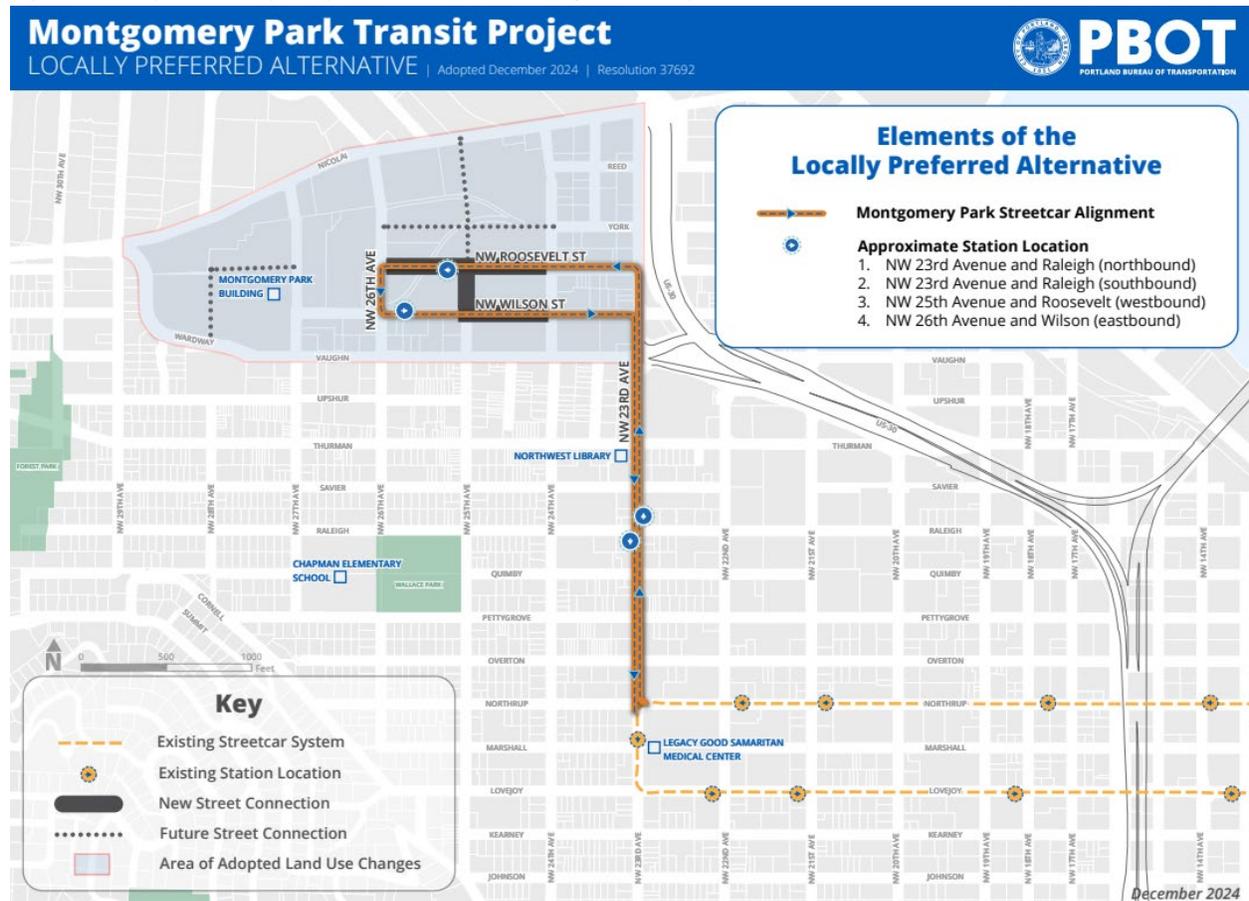
- The Project will construct new trackwork for two-way north-south streetcar movement on NW 23rd Avenue between NW Wilson Street to the north and NW Northrup Street to the south to support future trip demand in a new transit-oriented district.
- The Project will construct trackwork along a new parallel one-way couplet on NW Roosevelt Street (westbound) and NW Wilson Street (eastbound) between NW 23rd Avenue and NW 26th

Avenue, as well as along NW 26th Avenue between Roosevelt and Wilson streets (southbound) to support streetcar movement.

- The project will construct multimodal street extensions of NW Roosevelt Street between NW 24th Avenue and NW 26th Avenue, as well as NW Wilson Street between NW 24th Avenue and NW 25th Avenue to support streetcar movement, improve multimodal safety, and connect the local street grid to local connectivity standards.
- The project will add new buffered or protected bike lanes on NW Roosevelt Street and NW Wilson Street between NW 23rd Avenue and NW 26th Avenue, to improve bicycle safety
- The project will add four new streetcar stops along the alignment, two of which will be located on NW 23rd Avenue at NW Raleigh Street (northbound and southbound), as well as at NW 25th Avenue and NW Roosevelt Street (westbound) and NW 26th Avenue and NW Wilson Street (eastbound); the NW Wilson Street station will include a charging station for new off-wire capable streetcars, as the extension is planned to be off-wire.
- The project will rehabilitate NW 23rd Avenue between NW Vaughn and NW Lovejoy streets, including utility repair and relocation, stormwater remediation, and accessibility upgrades to support state of good repair and resiliency on the Neighborhood Main Street.
- The project will add or repair sidewalks and ramps along the streetcar alignment to improve pedestrian safety and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- The project will add wide furnishing zones along street extensions to support large species of street trees and improve tree canopy and improve resiliency in the area.
- The project will construct or modify signalized intersections along the streetcar alignment as needed to support transit reliability and multimodal safety, as well as planning the use of Transit Signal Priority (TSP) to ensure transit reliability.
- The project will purchase up to 12 new cars to support line operations and shorter headways.

See Figure 1 below for the endorsed LPA map for the project.

Figure 1: Project Locally Preferred Alternative Map and Project Elements



Purpose and Need

The Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Project will complete design and construction for an extension of Portland Streetcar to enhance transportation connectivity and access to and from key destinations in a developing transit-oriented district of Portland, Oregon. Service will be enhanced through:

- Providing low cost, high quality rapid and reliable mass transit connections in the Montgomery Park Area and Northwest Portland, as well as further enhancing the area's connections to Portland's Central City, Portland State University, Oregon Health and Sciences University, and other important local and regional destinations.
- Improving connections with current bus service at future streetcar stations and creating centralized connections to multiple transportation options near the Project terminus at Montgomery Park.
- Expanding mobility and access to employment and housing opportunities as well as critical destinations for the area's current and future residents and employees, who include transit-dependent, low-income, and minority populations.

- Preserving and promoting a healthy environment by minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and reducing congestion and carbon emissions by providing an attractive zero-emissions alternative for single occupancy vehicle (SOV) users.
- Improvement the local streetscape including new stormwater management and accessibility upgrades.

The Project will address four major needs in the corridor:

- *Meet Regional and Local Travel Demand:* According to Portland's [2035 Comprehensive Plan](#), Portland is predicted to add 260,000 new residents and 140,000 new jobs by 2035. The Northwest Portland area—of which the Montgomery Park Area is part—alone is expected to grow by 14,000 new households and 1,500 new jobs. Portland Streetcar, Inc. reports that streetcar ridership has grown overall, peaking at more than 16,000 average daily riders prior to Covid and rebounding to more than 10,000 in 2025. Portland's existing streetcar service is subject to the pressure of growing population and anticipated travel demand, and roadway congestion in the project corridor caused by this growth will continue to degrade transit performance as well as automobile performance and have negative environmental impacts.
- *Address Local Planning Goals:* This project aligns with the [2003 Northwest District Plan](#), the [2009 Streetcar System Concept Plan](#), the [2020 Northwest in Motion Plan](#), the [2015 Climate Action Plan](#), the [2023 Regional Transportation Plan](#), and the [Montgomery Park Area Plan](#), and is prioritized in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan as a means of accomplishing the plans' goals of reducing reliance on SOVs to achieve ambitious mode shift goals, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and achieving net-zero carbon emissions while supporting dense, equitable, and sustainable communities. The area is also poised for change, as there is substantial private development planned and anticipated on the more than 45 acres, including the Montgomery Park office complex, currently the second largest office building in the state, and the former ESCO Steel manufacturing site, which are both currently in various stages of development.
- *Serve Underrepresented Communities:* The proposed transit project will extend access to housing opportunity and employment, including for underrepresented communities. The proposed project area is near the densest and high-opportunity neighborhoods in Portland, as well as the one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Further, Portland Streetcar reports that more than a third of Portland's regulated affordable housing stock is located within a quarter mile of streetcar tracks, and plans have been developed for a further increase of housing in the area. Related land use changes and benefits agreements in the project area are anticipated to lead to hundreds of new middle-wage job opportunities and 2,000 or more new housing units, including 200 or more regulated affordable housing units. Past streetcar extensions were fundamental to broader housing development and neighborhood revitalization efforts. The extension to Montgomery Park will preserve and enhance access to living-wage jobs and connect people to opportunities through affordable, accessible low-carbon transportation options. The streetcar extension and its associated

investments in roadway construction will act as a catalyst for a new district focused on delivering more equitable and climate-friendly outcomes.

- *Maximize Local Investment:* The project will leverage a mix of funding sources, including federal, local, and private funds, to support construction and operation. The potential for using Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) to capture private investment for infrastructure underscores the project's capacity to generate community benefits.

Project Development Phase Schedule and Deliverables

The Locally Preferred Alternative being amended into the RTP will support further progress on the Project and is a required step to qualify for key federal funding opportunities. It is necessary to complete the NEPA process covering all aspects of the project proposed for FTA funding, develop sufficient information for FTA to develop a project rating, complete sufficient engineering and design to develop an accurate and reliable cost, scope, and schedule for the Project, commit all non-CIG funding commitments, complete all critical third-party agreements, and meet other FTA readiness requirements. The Project formally entered the Project Development phase in January 2025, and implementation is expected to be implemented through Summer 2030.

The Project Development Phase includes required deliverables that will be informed by the core design team, project partners, and community engagement, including:

- Completion of environmental approvals under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Development of preliminary design and engineering documents.
- Development of materials necessary for a Small Starts rating by FTA and subsequent Small Starts Construction Grant Agreement.

The anticipated schedule for the Project Development Phase deliverables is as follows:

- Preliminary Design and Engineering (Spring 2026 – Fall 2027)
 - 15% design (Spring 2026)
 - 30% design (Summer/Fall 2026)
 - 60% design (Spring 2027) (expected to be the plan set used for cost estimation and negotiation of Construction Grant Agreement with FTA)
- Draft Finance Plan (Fall 2026)
- Update to the Regional Transportation Plan and related financial elements, as necessary
- Environmental Approvals under NEPA (Fall 2026 – Fall 2027)
 - Purpose and Need
 - Class-of-Action Determination (anticipating a Documented Categorical Exclusion)
 - NEPA assessment and findings, including all needed analysis and public engagement
- Development of initial Small Starts Application for rating and subsequent Small Starts Construction Grant Agreement (Fall 2026)
- 30% of all non-CIG funding committed at submission of rating materials after 30% design (Fall 2026)

- Final Design and Construction Documents (Summer 2027-Spring 2028), including cost estimates for each stage documenting the total anticipated construction cost in year of expenditure dollars:
 - 95% Design Package
 - 100% Design – Issued for Construction
- 100% local funding sources committed prior to applying for final SSGA (Winter 2027/28)

The anticipated time period for the Construction phase is Spring 2028 – Summer 2030 and for vehicle procurement is Spring 2026 – Summer 2030.

Agency Partners and Roles

The following agency partners will help deliver the project:

- The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) will be the Project Sponsor and the Grantee for the FTA CIG Small Starts program on behalf of the City of Portland.
- The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will be the FTA CIG subrecipient. As owner of the Portland Streetcar System and Assets, the agency will lead on design and construction for the project.
- Portland Streetcar, Inc. will assist with funding, strategy, design, and partnerships to support Project delivery.
- Metro will support completion of the environmental review process.
- The Federal Transit Administration is the lead federal agency for NEPA and a key financial partner through the FTA's CIG Small Starts program.

Intergovernmental Agreements with both Metro and TriMet are currently in process to formalize roles and responsibilities for Project Development and construction.

Public Engagement

Following a demographic assessment completed as part of public involvement planning as part of the Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy (MP2H) (which in Northwest Portland evolved into the Montgomery Park Area Plan (MPAP)), the Project team conducted various public engagement efforts was conducted in two general phases over five years:

- *Phase 1: Fall 2019 – Winter 2021/22:* During Phase 1, the project team gathered feedback as they developed and analyzed alternative transportation and land use development scenarios for Northwest Portland, with focus on the area around Montgomery Park. The project team convened a Project Working Group of 16 community members representing a variety of viewpoints, many of whom had connections to local neighborhood groups, business organizations, transportation advocates, and area property owners. An FTA TOD planning grant administered by Metro supported direct funding to two area Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide outreach to underserved communities regarding

their aspirations, concerns, and priorities for the area and Project: Friendly House, Inc; and Northwest Industrial Business Association (NIBA)/Columbia Corridor Association. During this phase, the project team asked questions to better understand transportation and land use conditions, sought feedback on what goals the MPAP should seek to achieve, and gathered input on various land use development scenarios and potential streetcar extension alignments. Phase 1 engagement methods included 7 Project Working Group Meetings; 1 Project Kickoff Open House; 1 Urban Design Concept Open House; the 2 aforementioned Community Based Organization Partnerships, including mailers, surveys, conversations, and community forums; meetings with neighborhood and business organizations; and 1 comment period for the draft plan.

- *Phase 2: Spring 2023 – Winter 2024/25:* Phase 2 focused on learning more about the community's needs and priorities for the Project itself, which informed the final MPAP recommendations and the LPA. This phase combined in-person meetings; an online open house and survey; project mailers; meetings with neighborhood groups; tabling at open houses and events in the area; direct canvassing of businesses along the proposed alignment; A BIPOC-focused urban design focus group; and intercept surveys both near existing area streetcar stations and around regulated affordable housing developments along streetcar in Northwest Portland.

Community engagement has helped shape the development of the MPAP and the LPA for the Project since 2019, when community members helped define the planning process goals. Overall Key takeaways from community engagement can be found in the adopted [Montgomery Park Area Transportation Plan](#) (Volume 3 of the MPAP). Two key ways in which community engagement shaped the MPAP and Project are as follows:

- *Area of change and final Project alignment:* During the MPAP planning process, several land use development scenarios and supportive alignments for streetcar were explored. When the Project Working Group and other stakeholders repeatedly expressed concern about the potential for broad loss of industrial land in the planning area, the plan shifted focus to a smaller area where the greatest expected change might occur (west of US-30) in order to preserve industrial uses elsewhere. This allowed for the development of plan recommendations that balanced stakeholder interests in new jobs, more housing, and the preservation of low-barrier-to-entry middle-wage jobs in the area. As a result, the streetcar alignment shifted to serve the area of greatest potential growth. Additionally, the project's related adopted [Public Benefits Agreement](#) addresses these priorities by requiring a minimum of 400 middle-wage jobs in a variety of sectors in the plan area and the provision of at least 200 units of affordable housing prior to development of other buildings on the land subject to the agreement.¹
- *Commemoration of York:* Through engagement with the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, the Project team was introduced to the York Collective. The York Collective

¹ More information is available in [Volume 1](#) of the adopted Montgomery Park Area Plan, beginning on Page 36 (PDF Page 44).

includes Black Portlanders and allies with interest in exploring and advancing opportunities to share and elevate information about the legacy of York, an enslaved member of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, and for whom NW York Street in the Project area is named. The group has produced a broad vision for a “justice- and climate-centered transit and land use development strategy along York Street.” Through continued engagement, this group has ensured that public art commemorating York is part of implementation of the MPAP, and an action item directing City staff to continue to assist the group and others seeking equitable outcomes to seek further engagement and resource identification toward their goals for the area.²

RTP Consistency and Regional Significance

The Project advances the following RTP goals and objectives:

Goal 1 – Mobility Options:

- *Objective 1.1 Travel Options:* Provides travel options to support mode shift and reduced per capita vehicle miles traveled by constructing multimodal facilities and improving the pedestrian, bicycle, and transit network while supporting transit-oriented development so people can meet their daily needs without a personal automobile.
- *Objective 1.2 System Completion:* Supports system completion by filling gaps in the pedestrian, bike, and transit network through key connections and local street grid completion.
- *Objective 1.3 Access to Transit:* Improves access to transit for existing and future residents, workers, and visitors.
- *Objective 1.4 Regional Mobility:* Supports regional mobility by ensuring that modal functions for facilities support regional mobility, including goods movement.

Goal 2 – Safe System:

- *Objective 2.1 Vision Zero:* Implements Complete Street designs in support of Vision Zero. Streets will be human scaled with wide sidewalk corridors, and dedicated bike facilities along the new couplet north of NW Vaughn Street will reduce modal conflicts.
- *Objective 2.3 State of Good Repair:* Brings NW 23rd Avenue between NW Vaughn and NW Lovejoy streets to a state of good repair.

Goal 3 – Equitable Transportation:

- *Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 Transportation Equity and Barrier-Free Transportation:* Advances transportation equity and barrier-free transportation by improving access to permanent, high-capacity transit for residents in an Equity Focus Area (Tract 49.01) while serving future residents of affordable housing in the new transit-oriented district. The Project will improve access to nearby industrial jobs while supporting new middle-wage job requirements in the

² More information is available in [Volume 1](#) of the adopted Montgomery Park Area Plan, on pages 13 and 84 (PDF pages 21 and 92).

Montgomery Park area, all while connecting people to services, jobs, and educational opportunities in Portland's Central City and throughout the region.

Goal 4 – Thriving Economy:

- *Objective 4.1 Connected Region:* Supports a connected region through focused investment and growth in an expanded Neighborhood Center in Northwest Portland.
- *Objective 4.2 Access to industry and freight intermodal facilities:* Facilities continued access to industry and intermodal freight facilities for goods movement to and from the industrial lands around the Project area.
- *Objective 4.3 Access to Jobs and Talent:* Integrates captured public benefits to require 400 new middle-wage jobs in the Montgomery Park area, per the related Public Benefits Agreement.
- *Objective 4.4 Transportation and housing affordability:* Supports the development of housing choices and new jobs in an urban district where people can meet their needs without a personal automobile.
- *Objective 4.5 State of Good Repair:* Brings NW 23rd Avenue between NW Vaughn and NW Lovejoy streets to a state of good repair.

Goal 5 – Climate Action and Resilience:

- *Objective 5.1 Climate Change Mitigation:* Supports climate change mitigation by providing accessible non-driving transportation options to support reduced per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- *Objective 5.2 Climate-Friendly Communities:* Develops a new climate-friendly community by coordinating the Project with an increase in middle-wage jobs and housing choices in a high-opportunity, walkable, mixed-use area served by permanent high capacity frequent transit service and active transportation options.
- *Objective 5.3 Resource Conservation:* Integrates green infrastructure including onsite stormwater remediation, wide furnishing zones, and large varieties of street trees.
- *Objective 5.4 Adaptation and Resilience:* Promotes reduced urban heat island effect through the planting of large street trees along the Project's couplet north of NW Vaughn Street.
- *Objective 5.5 State of Good Repair:* Brings NW 23rd Avenue between NW Vaughn and NW Lovejoy to a state of good repair, and upgrades water and stormwater facilities.

The Project is consistent with and supports implementation of the following RTP System, Regional Design and Regional Network Policies:

- *3.2.1 2040 Growth Concept:* The Project supports the Metro 2040 Growth Concept by advancing permanent high-capacity transit and higher-density growth along a designated Main Street of NW 23rd Avenue and within the Central City regional hub, as well as supporting planned land uses adopted in Portland's Comprehensive Plan and the 2040 Growth Concept. The Project supports the preservation of nearby industrial land north of NW Nicolai Street east of US-30, and updated MPAP policies prioritize freight movement and access to this land.

- *3.2.2 Transportation Equity Policies:* The Project improves multimodal options and permanent transit access in an Equity Focus Area (Tract 49.01). Additionally, the Project advances a new equitable transit-oriented district with housing choices including affordable housing in a high-opportunity area of Northwest Portland.
- *3.2.3 Safety and Security Policies:* While the Project area does not include any Regional High Injury Corridors or Intersections, the Project advances implementation of Vision Zero and the Safe System approach and implements Complete Street policies to reduce modal conflicts and improve safety for all modes.
- *3.2.4 Climate Action Policies and Resilience Policies:* The Project supports Metro’s Climate Smart Strategy and related policies. It will support implementation of the MPAP to support reduced vehicle miles traveled per capita and related greenhouse gas emissions. It will advance a major high-capacity transit investment to make transit more convenient, frequent, and accessible. It will include improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network and connect the local street grid with safe crossings. Implementation will also include the development of a parking management strategy for the Montgomery Park area, to be implemented alongside the construction of new streets in the project area. Private developments in the area will be subject to the City of Portland’s Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policies to support mode shift and reduced vehicle miles traveled per capita. Additionally, the Project will support Metro’s transportation preparedness and resilience policies by supporting the designation of regional emergency transportation routes in the project area, integrating green infrastructure, and expanding the region’s tree canopy.
- *3.2.6 Mobility Policies:* The Project will advance mobility policies. It pairs a major transportation system investment with adopted land use changes to enhance efficiency. It will provide people and businesses a variety of seamless and well-connected travel modes so that people and businesses can meet their daily needs. It prioritizes the safety and comfort of travelers of all modes through multimodal network completion. It prioritizes an investment in an Equity Focus Area.
- *3.3 Regional Network Policies:* The Project supports regional network policies. It advances design and complete streets policies by implementing multimodal street connectivity and Complete Streets Policies. It is supportive of 2023 RTP Policy Map designations for transit, bike, pedestrian, and regional emergency routes in the Project area and implements Project C28 in the Regional High Capacity Transit Vision. It supports adjacent RTP Policy Map designations for Design, Freight, and Motor Vehicles.

Identification of the Project followed the RTP congestion management process policies in the following ways:

- The Project utilizes multiple tools in the Congestion Management Process (CMP) toolbox. It utilizes transit-oriented development and new mixed-use land uses alongside parking management to support a walkable, employment- and housing-focused district facilitated by compact land uses in combination with walking, biking, and transit connections. It is planned to utilize transit signal priority and access management strategies to support system

management and operations. It will utilize active transportation strategies by implementing new biking and walking connections to key destinations. It will utilize transit strategies by constructing high capacity transit and expanding transit coverage. It will also utilize street and throughway capacity strategies by connecting the local street grid to distribute vehicle trips through the Project area.

- The Project aligns with the City of Portland's advancement of the Regional Transportation Functional Plan's Transportation Solutions (3.08.220) in the order listed. Private development in the Montgomery Park area will be subject to Portland's local TDM requirements; Additional TSMO strategies include operational and access management improvements. The project includes transit, bicycle, and pedestrian system improvements, as well as traffic-calming designs, The project utilizes land use strategies to achieve required performance standards. The project improves local street connectivity to provide alternative routes and encourage walking, biking, and access to transit. Finally, the project makes motor vehicle capacity improvements by completing the local street grid to disperse driving trips as the area grows.

The Project is regionally significant. In 2018, Metro adopted the region's first [Regional Transit Strategy](#), in support of the [2018 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#). The RTP identified the extension of Portland Streetcar to Montgomery Park as an Enhanced Transit Corridor (ETC) for short-term implementation and included the Project in its [financially-constrained project list](#) (11319). Subsequent area planning was completed as part of the [Montgomery Park Area Plan](#) (adopted 2024). In 2023, Metro adopted the [Regional High Capacity Transit \(HCT\) Strategy](#) as part of [the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan update](#), which designates the Project as a Tier 1: near-term HCT corridor; this is the highest priority for near-term HCT investment in the region. The Project will also require project-level NEPA review. Additionally, NW 23rd Avenue within the project area is designated on the pedestrian, transit and TSMO Regional Transportation Plan network maps (NW Wilson Street is also designated on the TSMO network map).

Performance

The Project makes progress toward federal and regional performance targets:

- *Mobility*, by increasing pedestrian, bike, and transit mode shares, improving access to jobs via transit, contributing to completing the transit network and bicycle and pedestrian system near transit, and increasing the share of households that are located near multimodal options.
- *Equity*, by prioritizing safe system completion and access to jobs in an equity focus area.
- *Economy*, by advancing completion of the bicycle and pedestrian system in a job and activity center to provide safe and convenient options for short trips and connections to transit.
- *Climate and Environment*, by helping reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles and per capita vehicle miles traveled, helping meet revised statewide goals requiring accelerated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and keeping air pollution from mobile sources at levels below thresholds set by the federal government.

Fast, convenient and linked to the broader transit and transportation network – high capacity transit provides a viable, more affordable alternative to driving. Fewer cars on the road leads to less air pollution, more physical activity, less time in traffic, fewer crashes and more reliability for moving people and goods – supporting the health, safety, mobility, economy and quality of life of our region. As part of its evaluation, the 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy found that implementing all of the corridor improvements identified in the vision would result in a 0.6% reduction in CO_{2e} emissions regionwide. Using established transit elasticities to estimate the change in ridership that could occur on a given corridor through a high capacity transit investment and the corresponding change in auto vehicle miles traveled that would be expected, converted to greenhouse gas emissions using an average fleet emissions factor for year 2030, a streetcar extension in Montgomery Park was roughly estimated to potentially result in a weekday reduction of around 60 metric tons of CO_{2e} per year.

Implementing the Regional Transit Strategy vision of making transit convenient, frequent, accessible and affordable is a key strategy with a high relative climate benefit included in the Climate Smart Strategy (CSS). The CSS includes a number of near-term actions for Metro and partners related to high capacity transit, including: 1) expand transit service to serve communities of concern, transit-supportive development and other potential high ridership locations; and 2) expand partnerships with transit agencies, cities, counties and ODOT to implement capital improvements in frequent bus corridors (including dedicated bus lanes, stop/shelter improvements, and intersection priority treatments) to increase service performance.

To make progress toward the [Climate Smart Strategy](#) Performance targets, the Project implements elements of the 2040 Growth Concept and local and adopted land use and transportation plans; makes transit convenient, frequent, accessible, and affordable; making biking and walking safe and convenient; uses technology to actively manage the transportation system; requires area development provide information and incentives to expand the use of travel options; implements parking management to make efficient use of vehicle parking and land dedicated to parking; secures adequate funding for transportation investments; and demonstrates leadership on climate change. Several ways that performance is measured for the CSS transit strategy include increases in the share of households, low-income households, and employees within a ¼ mile of all-day frequent service. The extension of Portland Streetcar to Montgomery Park via NW 23rd Avenue will support the development of 2,000 or more new housing units, 200 or more new affordable housing units, and 400 or more middle-wage jobs in the Montgomery Park Area, linking employees and residents to the region's larger transit system. Preliminary modeling conducted by Metro indicates an anticipated ridership increase of 3,000 or more new riders on the NS line by 2040 resulting from this project and projected development along the high-capacity corridor.

This is not a safety project eligible for state and federal safety program funding.

Fiscal Constraint

The cost estimate included in the 2023 RTP financially constrained project list was \$80,000,000 in year-of-expenditure (YOE). That estimate has increased to \$195,000,000 in YOE due to extensive planning and concept development for the project, for the following reasons: the project now includes the purchase of up to 12 off-wire capable streetcar vehicles to support the extension and continued streetcar system operations due to much of the existing streetcar fleet reaching its end-of-life; the project now includes the rehabilitation of NW 23rd Avenue between NW Vaughn and NW Lovejoy streets including full-depth rehabilitation, utility relocation and related improvements, and accessibility and stormwater upgrades, as the street currently fails on the Pavement Condition Index; and the project now includes the multimodal extension of local streets in the project area.

Currently, \$12 million for Project Development have been committed, with an additional \$30 million committed from a Portland Clean Energy Fund grant for streetcar vehicle replacement. The Project team will be pursuing FTA Small Starts Capital Investment Grant (CIG) funding and is planning to seek \$97.5 million, which is the lowest percentage federal share (50 percent) for Small Starts projects. Additionally, the project was approved for Regional Flexible Fund Step 1A.1 New Project Bonds on July 31, 2025 by [Resolution 25-5510](#). Additional local sources will be committed as required by the FTA CIG program.

Table 1 below documents fiscal constraint for the project, differentiating new revenue (not accounted for in the 2023 RTP Forecast) and revenue already accounted for in the 2023 RTP Forecast for the project.

As indicated in the Project Development section above, preliminary engineering, design, and construction will all occur in the 2023-2030 near-term RTP investment time period.

Table 1: Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Fiscal Constraint Documentation

Fund source and type	Dollar amount	New revenue (not accounted for in 2023 RTP forecast)³	Accounted revenue (in 2023 RTP forecast (#11319))⁴
FTA CIG – 5309 Small Starts	\$97,500,000	\$57,500,000	\$40,000,000
Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) grant for vehicles	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000	
Regional Flexible Fund Bonds (Step 1A.1)	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	
Local Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including Streetcar Reserve Funds • General Transportation Revenue (FY 24-29) • Transportation System Development Charges • Northwest Parking District Set-Aside • Right-of-Way Dedication (per adopted Public Benefits Agreement) Commercial and Residential Local Improvement District • Additional Private Funds 	\$57,500,000	\$17,500,000 ⁵	\$40,000,000
Total	\$195,000,000	\$115,000,000	\$80,000,000

Attachments:

- A: Project Schedule
- B: Metro Council Staff Report on LPA Endorsement Recommendation (July 10, 2025)
- C: Proposed Preliminary Cross Sections

³ These dollars are new revenues not accounted for in the forecast in the adopted 2023 RTP. The revenues include an increased federal funding request through FTA’s CIG program, new funds awarded by PCEF on December 11, 2024 (most recent amendment ordinance to the PCEF Climate Investment Plan), RFFA Bond revenues approved by JPACT and the Metro Council on June 21 and July 31, 2025 (respectively), and additional Local Improvement Revenues not previously accounted for in the adopted 2023 RTP (see footnote 5).

⁴ This revenue was already accounted for and included in the revenue forecast adopted in the 2023 RTP, covering the project’s estimated cost in the 2023 RTP.

⁵ Following the 2023 RTP update, the City of Portland developed a new forecast of local resources that demonstrated \$17.5 million in additional revenues forecasted for the project.