

July 19, 2024

Renewing our Future Vision and Growth Concept: Draft scope outline and timeline

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to its founding charter, which was approved by the region's voters, Metro adopted a document entitled "Future Vision" as a guiding, non-regulatory statement in 1995. The Vision remains in effect today but is due for an update. Metro's charter requires an update every 15 years, and while many of the underlying values in the Vision remain consistent with Metro's activities, the language is dated, and some key regional priorities are missing. The Metro Council and many local partners have expressed the importance of updating the Future Vision and the Regional Framework Plan (in particular, the 2040 Growth Concept) to ensure they are relevant to policy making today.

PROJECT PHASES

The project will consist of three major development phases that will result in interim and final work products as identified below. Once created, the vision will be refined during the summer of 2026 and implementation will begin thereafter with updating the Growth Concept.

Looking back + looking forward (Phase 1): Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

In this phase, Metro will assess how the Future Vision and 2040 Growth Concept have been performing. Work will include analysis to understand what's working and what needs improvement. Some of this information has been developed through other efforts such as the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2024 Urban Growth Management decision. In other cases, new information will be needed, such as updating Metro's 2009 *State of the Centers* report.

This phase will also look forward toward a future up to 50 years from now. Trend reports will explore how possible outcomes of current trends could impact the region's future and thus our vision. Potential topics include climate resiliency, the impact of artificial intelligence on how people work, and the shifting demographics of our regional population.

Key work products

- Analysis of 1995 Future Vision and 2040 Growth Concept
- Future trend reports

Defining a vision (Phase 2): Spring 2025 – Winter 2026

This phase will create a draft Future Vision informed by the analysis and trend reports from Phase 1. The vision will also be influenced by a broad community conversation about regional values and guidance from a newly established Future Vision Commission. Jurisdictional and agency partners will provide input, as will community-based organizations and the general public. This phase will focus on what we collectively want to see in this region, not necessarily on the specific steps needed to achieve the vision.

Public engagement: Imagining futures

Phase 2 includes a major public engagement effort. The region's residents will be broadly engaged in a conversation about the future they desire for greater Portland.

Key work product

- Draft Future Vision

Initiating action (Phase 3a): Winter – Summer 2026

This phase will identify the steps Metro and regional partners will take to implement the Future Vision. Metro will revise the 2040 Growth Concept which depicts the land use and transportation components of the Future Vision in cartographic form and place type descriptions. Additional steps will be identified in an Implementation Plan to guide future work, including a look at local and regional funding sources. These work products will be primarily informed by the engagement in earlier phases as well as consultation with the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), jurisdictional partners and community organizations.

Public engagement: Refining the draft vision

Engagement in this phase will ask the public whether the draft vision correctly interprets the values identified by community conversations in the earlier phases. The intent is to ensure implementation planning is on the right track.

Key work products

- Final Future Vision
- Draft Implementation Plan
- Draft Growth Concept update

Refining the plan (Phase 3b): Summer – Fall 2026

This phase will refine the updated Growth Concept and Implementation Plan based on stakeholder consultation and any changes to the Future Vision based on outreach in the prior phase.

Public engagement: Confirming and looking ahead

This phase will return to the public with a final Future Vision and updated Growth Concept, describing how input and feedback were incorporated, and how the region's partners will move forward to implement the Vision.

Key work products

- Final Implementation Plan
- Final Growth Concept update

Implementing the Vision (Implementation Phase): Winter 2026 and beyond

It is likely that further updates to Metro's Regional Framework Plan and functional plans will result from this effort. Additional implementation steps will be identified through this work to reflect Metro's various roles as regulator, funder, and convenor.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

The project is proposed to have three key guiding bodies whose functions are as follows:

Metro Council

- Provides guidance throughout the entire project, from the scoping phase into future implementation work
- Appoints the Future Vision Commission
- Reviews the recommended renewed vision from Future Vision Commission
- Liaises with regional elected officials and community and business leaders
- Adopts renewed Future Vision and Growth Concept (as part of Regional Framework Plan)

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)

- Serves as a central point of information sharing and coordination with regional partners
- Reviews recommended renewed Future Vision from the Future Vision Commission
- Advises Metro Council on update to Growth Concept (as part of the Regional Framework Plan)
- Recommends action to Metro Council on Future Vision and the updated Growth Concept

Future Vision Commission

- Will be appointed by Metro Council and convened for the duration of the project to update the Future Vision
- Per Metro Charter, must consist of representatives from public and private sectors, including academia, and at least one representative from outside the Metro region
- Develops and recommends proposed renewed Future Vision

