

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELEASING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 23-5343
DRAFT 2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION)	
PLAN (RTP) AND PROJECT LIST FOR PUBLIC)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
REVIEW AND POLICY DISCUSSION)	Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
)	Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, Metro is the regional government responsible for regional land use and transportation planning under state law and the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Portland metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the federally recognized transportation policy for the Portland metropolitan region, and must be updated every five years; and

WHEREAS, the RTP fulfills statewide planning requirements to implement Goal 12 Transportation, as implemented through the Transportation Planning Rule (Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660 Division 12), and must be updated every five to seven years; and

WHEREAS, the RTP is a central tool for implementing the Region 2040 Growth Concept, and constitutes a policy component of the Regional Framework Plan; and

WHEREAS, the most recent update to the RTP was completed in December 2018, and approved and acknowledged by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC); and

WHEREAS, the next update must be completed by November 30, 2023 to allow time for review and approval prior to the plan's expiration on December 6, 2023, and to ensure continued compliance with federal planning regulations and funding eligibility of projects and programs using federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 RTP update will serve as a major vehicle for implementing and updating the region's Climate Smart Strategy, first adopted in December 2014, approved by the LCDC in 2015 and incorporated in the RTP in 2018, in response to House Bill 2001 and Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660 Division 44, to help meet statewide goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels at least 75 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 RTP update and 2023 Climate Smart Strategy will seek to help meet revised statewide goals identified in the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 that require accelerated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to levels at least 45 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2035 and at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, from October 2021 to April 2022, Metro engaged local, regional, state, business and community partners as to what priorities and challenges should be addressed as part of the update and the process for how the region should work together to address them; and

WHEREAS, the scoping phase concluded with approval of Resolution No. 22-5255 by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council, approving the work plan and engagement plan to guide the update; and

WHEREAS, from May 2022 to May 2023, the Metro Council, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), Metro's Committee on Racial Equity (CORE), the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), the TransPort Subcommittee of TPAC, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SWRTC) staff, county-level coordinating committees and elected officials, city and county staff, representatives from federally recognizing tribes, representatives from state, federal and resource agencies, port and transit districts, business, environmental, social equity, and transportation organizations, and community members from the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area provided input that identified regional transportation needs and challenges and shaped the draft 2023 RTP vision, goals, policies and investment priorities for the region's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, as part of the process, Metro issued a Call for projects through which jurisdictional partners and transportation agencies were asked to identify projects that addressed regional and local needs and challenges and supported regional goals, consistent with adopted local Transportation System Plans or other locally adopted plans, were reasonably expected to be implemented within the timeframes established within a regionally-coordinated financially constrained revenue forecast, and provide eligibility for strategic state and federal funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the draft Regional High Capacity Transit Strategy is a component of the RTP and 2018 Regional Transit Strategy; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Metro and TriMet, as a Project Management Team, created a High Capacity Transit Working Group consisting of transit providers and city, county and state representatives and agency partners, which was tasked with providing technical input to the team regarding development of a new coordinated vision and strategy for high capacity transit in the greater Portland region; and

WHEREAS, the Regional High Capacity Transit Working Group met more than six times from 2022 through 2023, through scheduled meetings, review sessions, and office hours, and provided input to Metro staff regarding the development of a new Regional High Capacity Transit Strategy (HCT) to be adopted concurrently with the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy include a regional high capacity transit vision to make transit more frequent, convenient, accessible and affordable for everyone, and new and updated high capacity transit-related polices aimed at providing a stronger backbone for the regional transit system in the greater Portland region; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT strategy includes updates to the Regional Transit Network map to include the updated 2023 high capacity transit lines, adjusted routes proposed in TriMet's Forward Together service concept, and new existing and planned County shuttles, along with enhanced Better Bus transit corridors, streetcar and future transit service identified by TriMet's Service Enhancement Plans and Wilsonville's South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 HCT Strategy updates existing transit-related policies, performance measures and actions that are described in the 2018 Regional Transit Strategy and are reflected in the draft 2023 RTP; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff have conducted planning activities that were informed by extensive inclusive public engagement to support a regional policy discussion on the future of the region's transportation system and the role that investment can play in providing safe, reliable and affordable

mobility options to access to jobs, education, healthcare and other services and opportunities and building healthy, climate-friendly and equitable communities and a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, development of the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy aimed to increase regional collaboration and coordination through a combination of partnerships, focused policy discussions, sound technical work, and inclusive public engagement to update the vision, goals, policies and investment priorities for the region's transportation system to support ongoing efforts to link land use and transportation planning to implement the 2040 Growth Concept and community visions within fiscal constraints while addressing urgent global and regional challenges facing the region – including rising inequities, climate change and safety, housing affordability, homelessness, public health and economic disparities that were intensified by the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the inclusive public engagement that informed development of the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy aimed to strengthen existing partnerships, and build new partnerships with local, regional, Tribal, state and federal governments, small and large businesses and economic development interests, business and community leaders, and underrepresented communities, including Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities, federally recognized tribes, people with low income, people who speak limited English, people experiencing a disability, youth and older adults, build public trust in government, build support for and momentum to adopt the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy, and make the case for funding and investment in the region's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the system analysis of the draft project list is not yet complete and will be added to the Chapter 7 of the draft 2023 RTP, identified in Exhibit A, along with design and copy edits, technical corrections and minor updates as the plan is finalized for public review; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 8 of the 2023 RTP, which establishes the ongoing work plan for regional planning activities, will evolve throughout the remainder of this RTP update - it will continue to be revised by Metro staff prior to release of the public review draft 2023 RTP and additional revisions are also anticipated in response to public comment and policy discussion as part of final adoption of the plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2023, Metro's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) recommended that JPACT approve this resolution; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, JPACT approved and recommended the Metro Council approve this resolution; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council approves releasing the Draft 2023 RTP, identified in Exhibit A; the Draft 2023 RTP Project List, identified in Exhibit B; and the Draft 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy, identified in Exhibit C, for public review and policy discussion, and supports staff making necessary design and copy edits, technical additions and corrections and minor updates when preparing the documents for release.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 29th day of June 2023.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney