

Date: October 20, 2025
To: Kim Ellis, Climate Program Manager; Ally Holmqvist, Senior Transportation Planner
From: Josh Brennan, TV Highway Project Director; Bernadette Le, Associate Project Manager
Subject: Tualatin Valley Highway Transit Project RTP Amendment Request

Purpose

This memo formally requests an amendment to the [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) to incorporate the [Locally Preferred Alternative \(LPA\)](#) for the Tualatin Valley (TV) Highway Transit and Safety Project and contains the background information needed to help Metro Staff to review the requested amendment for consistency with the RTP and develop the legislation and 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.

Project Description and Background

The TV Highway corridor is approximately 16.2 miles long, extending between the Beaverton Transit Center and 19th and B Street in Forest Grove, and is currently served by TriMet Line 57. This corridor connects Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Aloha, and Beaverton and generally follows OR-8 from Beaverton to Forest Grove. OR-8 was originally built as a farm-to-town road with limited multi-modal infrastructure. The alignment is also located directly north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks for a significant portion of the alignment through Beaverton, Aloha and Hillsboro creating challenging constraints with the railroad to the south and development to the north. The alignment also follows local roads in Hillsboro in order to access the Hillsboro Transit Center.

This corridor is currently served by TriMet's Line 57, which runs between Beaverton and Forest Grove, primarily along TV Highway. Line 57 is a frequent service line operating at 15 minutes or better throughout the day, seven days a week. It has the highest ridership in Washington County with around 6,440 average weekday boardings. This line has also seen a one of the strongest bounce back rates since COVID-19 in the TriMet system with around 89% of the ridership when comparing 2019 to 2025.

Within the TV Highway corridor, there are transfer opportunities to two MAX light rail lines, the Westside Express Service (WES) Commuter rail line, and 10 TriMet fixed-route bus lines, Ride Connection Community Connector service in Cornelius and Forest Grove, as well as regional bus service.

There are many essential services located along and nearby the 16 mile TV Highway corridor. This project will help improve transit access to 6,775 business entities and 1,349 family-supportive services sites, including educational opportunities and medical care. Employment growth in this area (47%) is also expected to be higher than the region (38%) and comparable to Washington County (47%), according to a Metro report.

Many families also live in this area and the population is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. The 2019-2023 American Community Survey found that in this corridor area there is a higher percentage of youth compared to the region and Washington County (22.9%, 19.9%, and 22.0%, respectively) as well as a higher percentage of family households with 5 or more members (18.8%, 11.7%, and 12.8%, respectively). Population growth is also forecasted to be higher in the ½ mile area around the corridor (38%) compared to the Portland region (28%) as well as Washington County (25%) (Metro).

The project would address three major needs in the corridor:

- *Safety*: need to improve access to transit and bus stop amenities in a high injury corridor
- *Transit speed and reliability*: need to provide faster and more reliable transit service in order to be more competitive with driving and to improve access to destinations
- *Transit-dependent communities*: need to provide safe, efficient, and reliable transit service to meet the needs of the high concentration of communities who rely on transit

The TV Highway Corridor has long been identified as a priority for major transit investment and previous plans/studies of the corridor have documented transit issues, community concerns and potential solutions. The 2009 High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Plan, the 2013 Tualatin Valley Highway Corridor Plan, the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the 2018 Regional Transit Strategy, the 2019 Moving Forward TV Highway Enhanced Transit and Access Plan, the Get Moving 2020 Bond Measure, and the 2023 Regional Transportation plan all call for a major transit investment in the corridor. The 2009 High Capacity Transit System Plan identified the corridor as a Next Phase Regional Priority Corridor (Beaverton to Hillsboro) and Developing Regional Priority Corridor (Hillsboro to Forest Grove). The 2018 RTP identified the corridor for major transit investment and then the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan includes a high-capacity transit project as a Tier 1 corridor in the 2030 Near-Term Constrained Project list, the top level of regional prioritization for advancing in the near-term.

These previous plans have analyzed TV Highway/Line 57 within the regional transit network and explored a set of corridor-wide and location-specific transit improvements, such as transit signal priority enhancements and station location and access improvements (Get Moving 2020). Previous planning processes have also identified that pedestrian safety for riders getting to transit stops is a key priority for the community (2013 Tualatin Valley Highway Corridor Plan, 2019 Moving Forward TV Highway Enhanced Transit and Access Plan). In addition to these past plans, recent research has highlighted the dire need to improve safety along the corridor. Between 2018 and 2022, 19% of the roadway fatalities that occurred within Washington County occurred along the 16.2 mile project corridor, which is only 0.5% of the roadway miles within the County, and about half of the fatalities were pedestrians.

TriMet worked closely with Metro during the planning phase to complete early planning for a transit and safety project in this corridor. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was also a key partner as the owner of the roadway from Beaverton to Highway 47. The Washington County and the cities of Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro and Beaverton were all members of the project steering committee, helping to guide the team to identify a project that meets the needs of their residents. The steering committee also included four members from community-based organizations that serve people in the area along TV Highway: Unite Oregon, Centro Cultural, Adelante Mujeres and APANO. These members brought community perspectives to the discussion that may otherwise not be represented.

In February 2025, the project Steering Committee recommended a locally preferred alternative (LPA) that identifies the project's transit mode, route and general station locations. The committee also approved a funding strategy to secure local, regional, state and federal funding for the project.

A timeline of partners and jurisdictions endorsements of the LPA is as follows:

- The Board of Washington County Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution Number 25-26 to endorse the LPA on April 22, 2025.

- The Cornelius City Council unanimously adopted Resolution Number 2025-16 to endorse the LPA on May 5, 2025.
- The Hillsboro City Council unanimously adopted Resolution Number 2881 to endorse the LPA on May 6, 2025.
- The Forest Grove City Council unanimously adopted Resolution Number 2025-17 to endorse the LPA on May 12, 2025.
- Beaverton City Council unanimously adopted Resolution Number 25084 to endorse the LPA on May 27, 2025.
- The TriMet Board of Directors unanimously adopted Resolution Number 25-05-25 to endorse the LPA on May 28, 2025.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation endorsed the LPA with a letter of support dated May 28, 2025.
- JPACT approved Resolution No. 25-5504 and submitted the resolution to the Metro Council for approval on June 12, 2025.
- Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 25-5504 endorsing the LPA on June 26, 2025.

Project Description and Map

The TV Highway Transit & Safety Project will bring TriMet FX–Frequent Express bus service to the 16.2 mile corridor. The FX line would be built and operated by TriMet. The line would connect Beaverton, Aloha, Hillsboro, Cornelius, and Forest Grove. It would operate as Frequent Express (FX) service, TriMet’s brand of BRT, and would replace the existing Line 57 bus line.

The following agency partners will help deliver the project:

- TriMet will be the Project Sponsor and the Grantee for the FTA CIG Small Starts program.
- Metro will lead the environmental analysis and approvals required under NEPA.
- Washington County, the Cities of Beaverton, Cornelius, Hillsboro, and Forest Grove, and ODOT are project partners supporting Project Development activities.
- ODOT and Forest Grove are AHJs along the corridor related to permitting requirements
- The Federal Transit Administration is expected to be the lead federal agency for NEPA and an important financial partner through the FTA’s CIG Small Starts program.

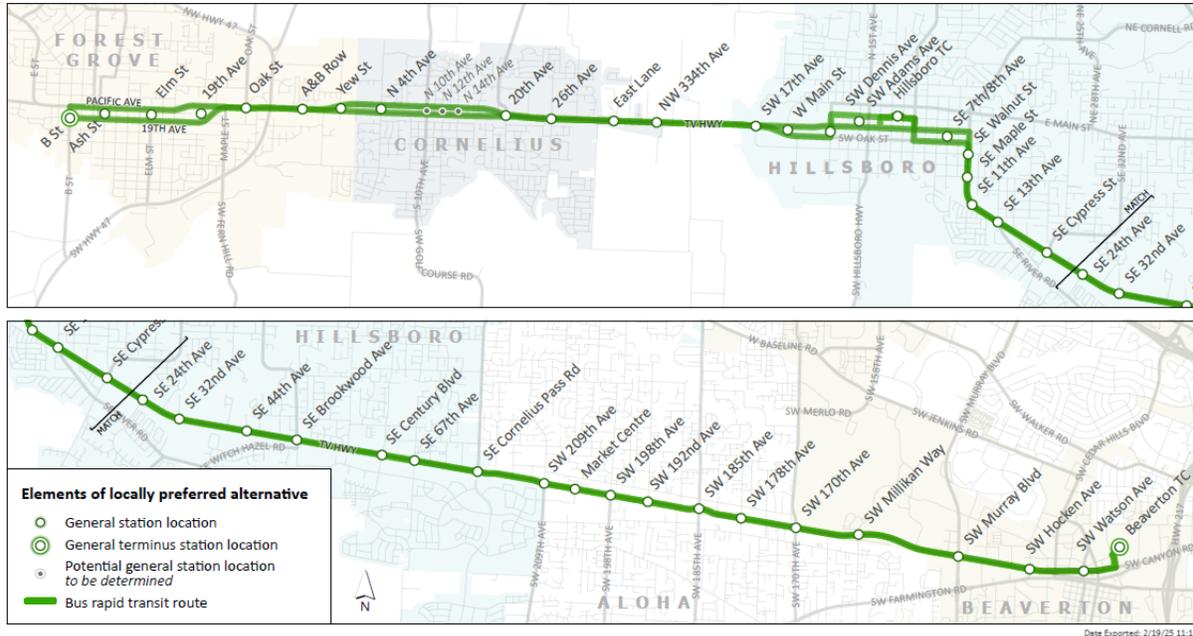
Early project designs include the following proposed modal and design elements:

- Eliminates partial pullout stop design and creates safer bus/bike interactions at stations
- Station amenities and platforms at 41 station pairs
- Accommodating UPRR requirements for station locations in and adjacent to UPRR ROW
- Four rebuilt intersections (to accommodate bus pullouts where there are existing traffic safety issues and to shift away from the UPRR tracks)
- 17 new vehicles
- 59 signal upgrades to accommodate transit signal priority
- TV Highway would be upgraded to 12-minute service from the existing 15 min service
- New or existing enhanced crossings at each station pair
- Sidewalk and crossing connections linking to optimized station platforms to ensure access
- Station-area lighting upgrades

Figure 1 outlines the project area and endorsed LPA, which starts at Beaverton Transit Center and ends at 19th Avenue and B Street in Forest Grove.

Figure 1: Project Area Map

TV Highway transit project Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative



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 also 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 a firm and reliable cost, scope, and schedule for the project, obtain 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 October 2025, with Project Development anticipated to be completed in spring 2028, with service opening in fall 2030.

The schedule for Project Development Phase deliverables is as follows:

- Environmental Approvals under NEPA (early 2026 — early 2027)
 - Purpose and Need
 - Class-of-Action consultation, coordination, and determination
 - NEPA assessment and findings, including traffic, SEE analysis, and public engagement (intended to culminate in a Documented Categorical Exclusion)
- Preliminary Engineering and Design (fall 2025 — early 2027). Assuming the required NEPA class of action results in an Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) . At each design step listed below an official project cost estimate shall be prepared that documents the total anticipated construction cost in year of expenditure dollars:
 - "15%" design (expected to be the result of incorporating comments and adjustments to LPA Plan Set)
 - "30%" design (generally a typical design level for interim review)

- "60%" design (expected to be the plan set used for cost estimation and negotiation of Construction Grant Agreement with FTA)
- Draft Finance Plan
- Development of initial Small Starts application for rating and subsequent Small Starts Construction Grant Application
- Final Design and Construction Documents (early 2027 – 2028). At each design step listed below an official project cost estimate shall be prepared that documents the total anticipated construction cost in year of expenditure dollars:
 - "90%" design
 - "Issued for Construction" (IFC) Plan Set, including specifications and special provisions

The proposed time period for the Engineering and Construction phase is April 2028-December 2030.

Public Engagement

The project planning phase included three phases of public engagement, which focused on raising project awareness, engaging with the TV Highway Equity Coalition (TEC), and seeking feedback on proposed station locations. During phase one, the project team engaged over 160 community members to introduce them to the project. In the second phase, the project team convened public workshops and asked community members about their visions for transit in the corridor, what successful equitable development looks like, and which destinations along the Line 57 route are most important to them. The third phase of engagement included an online survey, StoryMap, and tabling at community events to seek feedback on proposed station locations, gauge community support for proposed investments, and allow space for open-ended comments.

Public engagement activities helped shape the project in several ways:

- At TEC meetings and community workshops in 2023, participants confirmed that the proposed criteria for station locations were appropriate and that no additional criteria needed to be added.
- Community members identified safe access to bus stops and improved waiting areas for transit riders were top priority items and should be included in the project scope. This feedback, alongside technical analysis, was considered by decision-makers when recommending station locations and safety improvements.
- Four community representatives from the TEC served on the project Steering Committee. The committee was charged with advancing the project through key decision points and recommending a LPA.

See Attachment A: Fall 2024 Engagement Summary for a summary of public engagement efforts and the community feedback received.

In the project development phase, the project will establish a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and a Policy & Budget (P&B) Committee. Meetings for these committees will be public. The Community Advisory Committee will advise the project team on project design, station platform locations, community outreach activities, and development of other Project elements. The P&B Committee will consist of one elected/executive from each jurisdictional partner agency and one member of the CAC. The Committee will advise the relevant road authorities about changes in their rights of way. The Committee will also serve as a public forum for the Project team to provide Project updates, public engagement and CAC updates, and opportunities for jurisdictional partners and CAC leadership to collaborate and provide advice.

RTP Consistency and Regional Significance

The project advances the following RTP goals, objectives, and policies, and RTP modal function(s) of the facility:

Goal 1 – Mobility Options

- (Objective 1.1) Increases proportion of trips made by use of transit and reduces per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- (Objective 1.2) Completes gap in planned regional network.
- (Objective 1.3) Increases household and job access to frequent transit service.
- (Objective 1.4) Maintains reliable person-trip and freight mobility in a regional mobility corridor.

Goal 2 – Safe System

- (Objective 2.1) Contributes to eliminating fatal and severe injury crashes by 2035.
- (Objective 2.3) Maintains and brings facilities up to a state of good repair.

Goal 3 – Equitable Transportation

- (Objective 3.1) Contributes to eliminating disparities related to access, safety, affordability, and health outcomes experienced by people of color and other marginalized communities.
- (Objective 3.2) Contributes to eliminating barriers that people of color, people with low incomes, youth, older adults, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities face to meeting their travel needs.

Goal 4 – Thriving Economy

- (Objective 4.1) Focuses growth and transportation investment in a designated 2040 growth area and provides access to jobs, markets, and community places within and beyond the region.
- (Objective 4.2) Maintains access to industry and freight intermodal facilities.
- (Objective 4.3) Attracts new businesses and family-wage jobs and retains those already located in the region while increasing the number and variety of jobs that households can reach within a reasonable travel time.
- (Objective 4.4) Reduces the share of income that households in the region spend on transportation to lower overall household spending on transportation and housing.
- (Objective 4.5) Bring facilities up to a state of good repair and avoid deferred maintenance.

Goal 5 – Climate Action and Resilience

- (Objective 5.1) Contributes to meeting adopted targets for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and vehicles miles per capita.
- (Objective 5.2) Increases the share of jobs and households in walkable, mixed-use areas served by frequent transit service.
- (Objective 5.3) Preserves and protects the region’s biological, water, historic and culturally important plants, habitats, and landscapes, and integrates green infrastructure strategies to maintain habitat connectivity, reduce stormwater run-off, and reduce light pollution.
- (Objective 5.4) Increases the resilience of communities and regional transportation infrastructure to the effects of climate change and natural hazards including seismic events.

- (Objective 5.5) Brings facilities up to a state of good repair and avoid deferred maintenance to prevent future more costly and resource intensive repairs.

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 along a designated Corridor of Tualatin Valley Highway, as well as supporting planned land uses adopted in the 2040 Growth Concept [by improving mobility between Regional Centers via transit.](#)
- *3.2.2 Transportation Equity Policies:* The Project improves multimodal options and permanent transit access in several Equity Focus Areas.
- *3.2.3 Safety and Security Policies:* The Project advances safe access to transit on a Regional High Injury Corridor.
- *3.2.4 Climate Action Policies and Resilience Policies:* The Project supports Metro’s Climate Smart Strategy and related policies. It will advance a major high-capacity transit investment to make transit more convenient, frequent, and accessible. It will include sidewalk and crossing connections linking the local street grid to optimized station platforms.
- *3.2.6 Mobility Policies:* The Project will advance mobility policies. It will improve transit and pedestrian travel and access, while balancing motor vehicle travel and the many other functions of arterials. It prioritizes the safety and comfort of travelers of all modes through multimodal network completion.
- *3.3 Regional Network Policies:* The Project supports regional network policies, including policies which aim to provide transit as an attractive, convenient, accessible, and affordable travel option. [It supports RTP Policy Map designations for the Transit and Pedestrian networks.](#)

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 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 walking connections to key destinations. It will utilize transit strategies by constructing high capacity transit and expanding transit coverage. The project incorporates TSMO strategies and transit system improvements to manage congestion and support planned land uses adopted in local comprehensive plans and the [2040 Growth Concept.](#)

The Project is regionally significant. TV Highway was first identified as a priority corridor for high-capacity transit (HCT) in the 2009 [HCT System Plan.](#) In 2018, Metro adopted the region’s first [Regional Transit Strategy,](#) in support of the [2018 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\).](#) The RTP included an “enhanced transit concept” investment in the TV Highway corridor on the financially constrained project list. This type of capital investment is a context-sensitive approach to improving transit speed and reliability with lower-cost and easy to implement improvements. Subsequent transit corridor planning was completed as part of [Washington County’s 2019 Moving Forward TV Highway Enhanced Transit and Access Plan,](#) as well as the 2020 regional transportation funding measure. In 2023, Metro updated and replaced the HCT Plan with the [Regional HCT Strategy](#) as part of the [2023 Regional Transportation Plan update,](#) which designates

TV Highway as a Tier 1: near-term HCT corridor, the highest priority for near-term HCT investment in our region. The current planning effort builds on the analysis and findings from these prior plans and will also require analysis and approvals required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additionally, TV Highway is designated on multiple RTP network maps—transit, motor vehicles, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, and TSMO networks.

Performance

The Project makes progress toward federal and regional performance targets:

- *Mobility*, by increasing transit, bike, and pedestrian mode shares, improving access to jobs via transit, contributing to completing the transit network and the bicycle and pedestrian system near transit, increasing the share of households that are located near transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improving throughway reliability.
- *Safety*, by contributing to eliminating transportation related fatalities and serious injuries.
- *Equity*, by contributing to eliminating transportation related fatalities and serious injuries in equity focus areas, contributing to completing the bicycle and pedestrian system in equity focus areas, and improving access to jobs within equity focus areas.
- *Economy*, by maintaining driving and transit travel times and contributing to completing the bicycle and pedestrian system in job and activity centers.
- *Climate and Environment*, by reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles and per capita vehicles miles traveled, helping to meet revised statewide goals requiring accelerated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and keeping air pollution from mobile sources 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. TV Highway landed in the top 30% of vision corridors evaluated where a high capacity transit investment would result in greenhouse gas reduction. The HCT Strategy’s analysis found that a high capacity transit investment on TV Highway could result in a reduction of around 160 metric tons of CO_{2e} per year.

The 2023 RTP Climate Smart Strategy (CSS) states that implementing the Regional Transit Strategy vision of making transit convenient, frequent, accessible and affordable is a key strategy with a high relative climate benefit. 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 CSS performance targets, the Project implements elements from the 2040 Growth Concept and local adopted land use and transportation plans, makes transit convenient, frequent, accessible, and affordable, makes biking and walking safe and convenient, makes streets and highways safe and reliable, uses technology to actively manage the transportation system, provides information and incentives to expand the use of travel options, supports transition to cleaner low carbon fuels, secures adequate funding for transportation

investments, demonstrates leadership on climate change, and adopts new metrics for climate analysis.

In spring 2025, TriMet applied for a U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to fund the safety elements of this project. Based on the grant eligibility requirements, this project was eligible for this federal funding source. Awardees may be announced as soon as late 2025.

Fiscal Constraint

The cost estimate included in the [2023 RTP financially constrained project list](#) was \$300,000,000 in year-of-expenditure dollars and that estimate has not changed. TriMet will be pursuing FTA Small Starts Capital Investment Grant (CIG) funding and will likely seek up to the maximum Small Starts CIG funding amount of \$150 million. In spring 2025, TriMet also applied for a U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to fund the safety elements of this project. Local and regional Project partners have agreed to work together to contribute approximately \$100M and the project is pursuing additional funding options to secure the remaining \$50M, such as grants. The combined \$150 million in local, regional and other funding will allow for critical investments in transit and safety throughout the corridor and leverage the federal investment through the Small Starts program.

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.

Attachments:

- [A: Fall 2024 Engagement Summary](#)
- [B: Metro Council Staff Report on LPA Endorsement Recommendation June 26, 2025](#)
- C: Initial Purpose and Need Statement