

2025 State Legislative Transportation Priorities

Date: 06/26/2024

Department: GAPD and PDR

Meeting Date: 07/16/2024

Presenter(s) (if applicable): Anneliese Koehler (she/her), Catherine Ciarlo (she/her)

Length: 60 min

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ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is the first opportunity to discuss Metro Council's objectives for a possible 2025 state legislative transportation package. The current political climate, state and local agency fiscal cliffs, and possible legislative priorities will be discussed. At this work session, staff will be discussing and seeking feedback on the draft process to arrive at Metro Council's priorities.

Staff will be before Council again in July, September and October for further discussion and development of Council's transportation priorities.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to discuss the current process to develop Council's priorities for a possible 2025 State Legislative Transportation Package and direct staff to change or adapt processes. They also may wish to discuss specific transportation priorities and/or direct staff to develop additional transportation priorities.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

- Councilors understand the current political dynamics and conversations surrounding a state legislative package in 2025.
- Metro Councilors receive approximately the same information that JPACT has received over the past 6 months to help inform their input on JPACT and Council draft transportation priorities.
- Eventual approval and adoption of Metro Council state legislative transportation funding priorities (anticipated in December 2024).

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does Council wish to confirm or change proposed processes to develop their 2025 transportation priorities?
- Are there additional topics or presentations that Council wishes to see to help develop their transportation priorities?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Included in the packet is a draft of the JPACT staff recommendation of priorities. Councilors will be able to discuss this draft in the 2nd work session on 7/23 and subsequent drafts at September and October work sessions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In advance of the state transportation package in 2017, JPACT and the Metro Council developed a legislative agenda for the 2017 state transportation package. Metro staff are working with JPACT and Metro Council in 2024 to determine funding priorities for the 2025 package.

BACKGROUND

Transportation package history and framing

Historically, the Oregon Legislature passes a large transportation package every decade. These packages focus on solving issues of that decade; in 2009, coming out of the Great Recession, the package focused on jobs and growing the economy. In 2017, among other issues, the package focused on solving critical statewide congestion and investing in transit operations for the first time. As we approach a possible transportation package in 2025, early framing is back to basics: solving for state and local transportation agencies' fiscal cliffs, addressing operations and maintenance, finding an ongoing source of sustainable revenue, and finishing unfinished projects from HB 2017.

Legislative dynamics

Transportation packages have a long history in Oregon of being bipartisan packages. Unlike other issue areas, the need for transportation investment is often an agreed upon priority for both Republicans and Democrats. In addition, revenue raising measures require a super majority for passage and it is uncommon for a party to have the required super majority in both chambers. As a result, staff anticipates that discussions will be framed around the necessity of a bipartisan vote.

Revenue raising measures in the Legislature have the potential to be referred to voters through referendum. Similar to other past transportation packages, staff anticipates that discussions will also be framed around preventing a referral. In the past, this has limited the amount of funding in the package and ensured that certain components be a part of the package.

The Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House have all indicated support for a transportation package in 2025. As is common with large scale packages like this, the Joint Transportation Committee has developed a statewide tour to learn and listen from constituents about their transportation concerns. With thirteen stops, the Committee

will be traveling throughout the state until the end of September. Three of the thirteen stops are in our region and staff anticipates that Metro will participate in all three.

JPACT and Metro Council priority development process

Staff is proposing a concurrent process at JPACT and the Metro Council to develop transportation legislative priorities. The process includes multiple informational sessions at both bodies and ample time for discussion and development of the priorities. Final adoption of priorities is slated for November and December 2024. Concurrently, Metro Council is also developing their 2025 State Legislative Agenda. Staff anticipates that the transportation priorities will be folded into the State Legislative Agenda before final adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A- Draft JPACT priorities from staff

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☐ Yes X No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes X No
- What other materials are you presenting today? [INSERT]