

JPACT Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Cooling Corridors Study

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Purpose/Objective

JPACT will receive an update on the *Cooling Corridors Study*, including key findings, the nine overarching recommendations, and potential supporting actions identified through best practices research, regional analysis and engagement.

The Cooling Corridors Study was initiated by Metro's COO, Marissa Madrigal, on behalf of the Metro Council, to explore Metro's role in addressing extreme heat. The study builds and expands upon the great work that is already underway across Metro and other agencies and organizations in our region to address extreme heat. The study provides important new data that can inform local and regional action to address extreme heat across the greater Portland region. It combines recommendations for near-term protections with long-term planning, partnerships, and investments to help prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly for the region's most vulnerable community members.

Outcome

JPACT members provide feedback on these questions:

- Does JPACT have feedback about the nine draft recommendations and potential supporting actions identified for Metro and local and regional partners to consider?
- Does JPACT have feedback about the five actions Metro staff proposed to Metro Council to consider implementing over the next year?
- Does JPACT have feedback about potential opportunities to integrate the Cooling Corridors Study findings and recommendations into the Future Vision update, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update and other Metro-led climate resilience efforts?

No formal action is requested. Feedback from JPACT in October and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) in November will inform future Metro Council discussions on this topic. Both JPACT and MPAC will begin discussion of the update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in 2026, including opportunities to integrate this study and other climate work in the 2028 RTP update and Climate Smart Strategy update.

What has changed since JPACT last considered this issue/item?

Since the project's initiation and initial introduction to JPACT in February, staff have:

- **Completed a comprehensive regional heat-risk assessment** combining air and surface temperatures, tree canopy coverage, and demographic vulnerability data. This analysis

identified the hottest areas in the region and “cooling corridors gaps” where cooling strategies are most urgently needed and where investments can provide the greatest public health benefits.

- **Evaluated a wide range of cooling strategies**, from tree planting and reflective pavement to resilience hubs and outreach and education.
- **Conducted extensive engagement** with community-based organizations, jurisdictional partners, national and international chief heat and climate officers, and technical experts to learn more about how our region and other places are tackling extreme heat, hear about the experiences people have in our communities during heat events, identify priority needs, and recommend cooling strategies that Metro, local governments and other partners can implement. Summaries of this engagement are provided in Attachment 4.
- **Developed a scoring framework** to evaluate cooling strategies based on urgency, equity, feasibility, and co-benefits. The framework allows Metro and partners to compare a wide variety of strategies such as tree planting, shade structures, reflective pavement, and resilience hubs on equal footing and to support decisions that balance impact and practicality.
- **Identified nine overarching recommendations, supported by detailed actions** Metro and local jurisdictional partners could consider to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths. Provided in Attachment 3, the recommendations and actions reflect the collective input of regional partners, international and national subject matter experts, and community members. These recommendations and potential supporting actions provide an array of cooling strategies that Metro and partners can implement and adapt to local needs and priorities.

Next Steps

- **Fall 2025:** Metro staff share Cooling Corridors Study findings with jurisdictional partners, health departments, community groups, and Metro’s policy and technical advisory committees.
- **Winter 2025 – Spring 2026:** Metro staff will publish the study’s data, analysis and findings on Metro’s website and begin to identify opportunities to integrate findings into the Future Vision, Regional Transportation Plan update and other Metro-led climate resilience efforts.

Additional steps for Metro may be identified, pending future Metro Council feedback and direction.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- Attachment 1 – Cooling Corridors Study Executive Summary
- Attachment 2 – Project Schedule and Engagement
- Attachment 3 – Draft Recommendations and Potential Supporting Actions
- Attachment 4 – Draft Engagement Summaries
- Attachment 5 – Draft Cooling Corridors Study Report