

FY 2024-25 Council Budget Amendment Proposal

For Budget Amendment Discussion

Amendment Title (brief):

Portland State University Transportation and Traffic Class

Department:

Unknown. Potentially Planning/COO.

Concise Description

Metro would take over financial support of the Portland Traffic and Transportation (PTT) class offered at Portland State University (PSU). Previously, this class was supported by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), however due to budget constraints, PBOT decided to cut the PTT class. This class has been a great opportunity for the region and has facilitated partnerships with agencies such as Metro and TriMet in the past.

There is an opportunity for Metro to take on the leadership of this course if desired. PBOT is open to further conversation and a spectrum of options on how to run this class. PBOT is happy to hand the program off to Metro, but be available for initial knowledge transfer and making connections to speakers, etc. There is a potential hybrid option as well, where Metro remains the funder but could ask for staff support from PBOT to work with a facilitator to set up the course and do outreach. There is room for Metro to decide what model is preferable.

Course description:

The Portland Traffic and Transportation Class is a sponsored course in partnership with PSU and a consultant facilitator with an emphasis on land use, mobility, social justice, and racial equity. The class focuses on equitable traffic and transportation design and planning for our communities and infrastructures in the City of Portland. The 10-week course is composed of weekly guest speaker lectures and student-led projects. For the final class, students prepare a vision plan or class project addressing community planning for transportation systems (e.g., roads, bridges, transit, parks, urban centers, etc.). Students are encouraged to research current design trends in the traffic and transportation industry, including new developments in connectivity, green technologies, and changing populations. This class is free to Portland area residents, and PSU students may take the course for credit.

Objective

Demonstrate and increase Metro's leadership in building knowledge in the region. This outcome will be supported by students if there is enrolling in the class.

Primary Sponsor

Councilor Simpson

Sponsoring Councilors

- President Peterson
- Councilor Simpson
- Councilor Lewis
- Councilor Rosenthal
- Councilor González
- Councilor Nolan
- Councilor Hwang

Funding time period

One-time Specific time period (e.g. two years) On-going

Cost Estimate

The total operating costs for this class in the past were \$41,000. A cost breakdown is as follows:

- \$15K for facilitator
- \$15K for PSU/ facility/ grad assistant support
- \$11K staff time (could potentially be Metro staff in the future, please see description above.)

Funding Options

Unclear where this funding should come from.

Relationship to other programs

This class aligns with Metro's transportation planning work.

Stakeholders

This class positively impacts students and people around the region looking to learn about transportation and multi-modal transportation in particular throughout the region. This class also positively impacts PSU by providing an opportunity for practical learning regarding the future of transportation in the Portland area.