

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE 2023	)	ORDINANCE NO. 26-1538
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO	)	
INCLUDE THE LOCALLY PREFERRED	)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
ALTERNATIVE FOR THE MONTGOMERY	)	Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
PARK STREETCAR EXTENSION	)	Council President Lynn Peterson

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

WHEREAS, the RTP fulfills statewide planning requirements to implement Statewide Planning Goal 12 (Transportation), as implemented through the Transportation Planning Rule and the Metropolitan Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Rule; 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, transit is a key element of the Climate Smart Strategy and the RTP; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010, the Metro Council adopted Ordinance No. 10-1241B, amending the 2004 RTP to comply with federal and state law, which included adoption of the Regional High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Regional HCT System Plan identified streetcar to Montgomery Park as part of the City of Portland's Draft Streetcar System Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Metro Council adopted the Regional Transit Strategy (RTS), as a component of the RTP, via Resolution No. 18-4892, which established the regional vision to make transit more frequent, convenient, accessible and affordable for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the HCT Strategy is a component of the 2018 RTS which was updated by Resolution No. 23-5348 to include new high capacity transit-related policies and identified high capacity transit lines on the Regional Transit Network map to better reflect the RTS vision; and

WHEREAS, the HCT Strategy identified streetcar to Montgomery Park from the City of Portland's Draft Streetcar System Plan as a Tier 1 near-term priority investment which is included on the RTP 2030 financially constrained project list; and

WHEREAS, the most recent update to the RTP was completed on November 30, 2023, following approval by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, JPACT and the Metro Council must approve any subsequent amendments to add new projects or policies or to substantially modify existing projects or policies in the RTP; and

WHEREAS, the public must be provided an opportunity to review and comment on proposed amendments to the RTP, consistent with the policies and procedures in Metro's Public Engagement Guide; and

WHEREAS, ongoing efforts to address congestion in the region include directing growth in designated centers and corridors served by high-quality transit in combination with investments in system and demand management strategies, improving transit service and reliability, increasing bicycle and pedestrian connections and adding roadway capacity in targeted ways; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension was identified in the 2023 RTP's financially constrained list of projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, from 2019 to 2023, the City of Portland developed the Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy (MP2H), which identified a preferred transit alignment for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the City of Portland published the Montgomery Park Area Plan, which included a description updated the MP2H name to better reflect the plan's focus in the Montgomery Park Area of Northwest Portland and included minor refinements to the preferred transit alignment to reduce capital costs and improve feasibility, as well as a description of the preferred transit alignment, an overview of the assessment of alternatives conducted toward its development, and proposed cross sections for the alignment; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2024, the Portland City Council adopted Resolution No. 37692 to adopt the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Transit Project; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2025, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension to enter into the Project Development phase under the FTA's Capital Investments Grants Small Starts program; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on June 26, 2025, JPACT approved Resolution No. 25-5505 endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension and submitted the resolution to the Metro Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on July 31, 2025, Metro Council approved Resolution No. 25-5505 endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension; and

WHEREAS, the FTA requires that the Locally Preferred Alternative be included in the Financially Constrained RTP and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan in order to be considered for a Small Starts Capital Investment Grant project rating; and

WHEREAS, Metro held a 45-day public comment period on the requested amendment from November 3 to December 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council held a public hearing on December 4, 2025 to accept public testimony and comments regarding the requested RTP amendment; and

WHEREAS, JPACT and MPAC have recommended approval of the requested RTP amendment by the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council held an additional public hearing on the requested RTP amendment on March 5, 2026; now therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The 2023 Regional Transportation Plan is hereby amended, as indicated in attached Exhibit A, attached and incorporated into this ordinance.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Georgia Langer, Recording Secretary

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney