

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2023 ) RESOLUTION NO. 23-5348  
HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT STRATEGY )  
) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer  
) Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with  
) Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, transit is a central tool for implementing the region’s 2040 Growth Concept, Climate Smart Strategy and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Metro Council adopted the Climate Smart Strategy via Ordinance No. 14-1346B, which calls for increased investment in our regional transit system in order to help meet state-required targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles; 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 included new and updated high capacity transit-related polices and identified high capacity transit lines on the Regional Transit Network map to reflect that vision; and

WHEREAS, the High Capacity Transit (HCT) Strategy is a component of the 2018 RTS; and

WHEREAS, Metro and TriMet, as a Project Management Team, created a High Capacity Transit Working Group consisting of transit, city, and county and state agency partners that met more than eight times from 2022 to 2023 to provide technical input and recommendations to the team regarding the development of a new regional HCT Strategy to be adopted concurrently with the 2023 RTP; and

WHEREAS, development of the 2023 HCT Strategy aimed to increase regional collaboration and coordination through a combination of existing and new partnerships, focused policy discussions, sound technical work, and inclusive public engagement designed to build public trust in government, build support for and momentum to adopt the 2023 HCT Strategy, and make the case for funding and investment in the region’s transportation system as part of updating the vision, goals, policies and investment priorities for the region’s transit system; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 HCT Strategy includes a new coordinated vision and strategy for high capacity transit in the greater Portland region, new and updated high capacity transit-related polices, and updated high capacity transit lines on the Regional Transit Network map aimed at providing a stronger backbone for the regional transit system in the greater Portland region to support ongoing efforts to link land use and transportation planning to implement the 2040 Growth Concept and community visions within fiscal constraints while addressing urgent global and regional challenges facing the region – including rising inequities, climate change and safety, affordability, public health and economic disparities intensified by the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 HCT Strategy updates existing transit-related policies, performance measures and actions that are described in the RTP, 2018 RTS and Climate Smart Strategy; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2023 Metro released the initial draft of the 2023 HCT Strategy for public review and comment, providing a 45-day public comment period through August 25, 2023, and held a public hearing on July 27, 2023 to accept public testimony and comments; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff invited federally recognized Tribes, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and other federal, state and regional resource, wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies to consult on the 2023 HCT Strategy in accordance with 23 CFR 450.316 and convened six separate consultation meetings in Fall 2021, Spring 2023 and on August 8, 17 and 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Metro Technical Advisory Committee, the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee, TriMet, South Metro Area Regional Transit, local government elected officials and staff, small and large businesses and economic development interests, business and community leaders, and the public, particularly underrepresented communities including Black, Indigenous and people of color communities, people with low income, people who speak limited English, people experiencing a disability, youth and older adults, assisted in the development of the 2023 HCT Strategy and provided comment throughout the planning process; and

WHEREAS, JPACT and MPAC have recommended approval of the 2023 HCT Strategy by the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council held an additional public hearing on the 2023 HCT Strategy on November 30, 2023; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Metro Council adopts the 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A as a component of the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan that complements the 2018 Regional Transit Strategy.
2. The "Summary of Comments Received and Recommended Actions," attached as Exhibit B, is incorporated by reference and any amendments reflected in the recommended actions are incorporated in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 30th day of November 2023.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney