



Memo

Date: Monday, December 30, 2024
To: Metro Council and Interested Parties
From: Grace Cho, Principal Transportation Planner
Subject: 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Step 1A.1 – Next Steps

Purpose: To provide an overview of the next steps in the 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation new project bond development process (Step 1A.1).

Background & Current Place in Development:

As part of the adoption of the 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Program Direction, regional leadership agreed to move forward in the development of a new project bond proposal (also referred to as Step 1A.1) for consideration by the region. After a project nomination period, nine (9) bond nominations underwent candidate project evaluations, in which the results were shared at TPAC and JPACT to help jump start a discussion towards concepts/themes to shape bond scenarios. The remainder of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the next steps in the 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Step 1A.1 new project bond development process.

2028-2030 RFFA Step 1A.1: Getting to a Preferred Bond Scenario

Several pieces of information are intended to inform and shape bond scenarios and an eventual preferred bond scenario/proposal for consideration by TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council. These are:

- Technical Information
 - Performance evaluation
 - Bond purpose and principles
 - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) goals and outcomes
 - Project delivery assessment
 - Financial assessment of bond scenarios
- Financial, Administrative, and Regulatory
 - Bond mechanism selection and requirements (e.g. restrictions, reporting, costs)
 - Regulatory and economic outlook
- Policy Direction
 - Objectives of the 28-30 RFFA Program Direction are met
- Partner and Public Input
 - TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council input bond scenario themes/concepts
 - Public comment
 - TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council input on local priorities

Some of the pieces of information has been shared at TPAC and JPACT towards the end of 2024, but many pieces remain as input to continue to gather as well as further technical analysis and research. The schedule outlined in next sections outlines the anticipated dates as to when the next pieces will come before different regional committees and Council.

2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund New Project Bond Development Process – Next Steps

Between December 2024 through March 2025, Metro staff will continue analysis and provide information to support the discussion of shaping bond scenarios and ultimately taking action on a preferred bond scenario to carry through public comment. Tables 1. and 2. both summarize upcoming bond development activities and key dates. Short descriptions of the activities follow.

Metro Council will play a key role in new project bond, where the Council will be asked to take action in July 2025 to adopt the 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation – including the New Project Bond (Step 1A.1) if agreed upon by regional partners, and Step 2. Along the way, Metro staff anticipates updating and gathering input from Council as the bond proposal development progresses.

Table 1. Upcoming Activities, Timeframe, and Audiences

Timeframe	Activities	Audiences
December 2024	Technical Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bond purpose and principles consistency ○ Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) goals and outcomes advancement • Project delivery assessment Partner and Public Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPAC and JPACT input bond scenario themes/concepts 	TPAC JPACT
January 2025	Technical Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assessment of bond scenarios (draft) Financial, Administrative, and Regulatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bond mechanism selection and requirements (e.g. restrictions, reporting, costs) (tentative) Partner and Public Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Council input bond scenario themes/concepts 	TPAC JPACT Metro Council
February 2025	Technical Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assessment of bond scenarios (revised) Financial, Administrative, and Regulatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further updates on bond mechanism Policy Direction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28-30 RFFA Program Direction objectives met Partner and Public Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council input on local priorities 	TPAC JPACT
March 2025	Technical Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assessment of bond scenarios (for preferred scenario) Financial, Administrative, and Regulatory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further updates on potential outlook Policy Direction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28-30 RFFA Program Direction objectives met Partner and Public Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council input on local priorities • Open public comment 	TPAC JPACT Metro Council*
April 2025	Public comment	Public

*Indicates tentative date. Unconfirmed on committee or Metro Council calendars.

Project Evaluation and Bond Scenarios Assessment (December 2024 – February 2025)

Following the candidate project evaluations, Metro staff seeks to gather regional partner input concepts/themes build different scenarios for financial evaluation. With the candidate evaluation results as a starting point for the discussion, this input is primarily being sought in December 2024 in efforts to maintain the schedule for completing the financial analysis of the scenarios.

With the combination of the concepts/themes input and the candidate evaluation results, Metro staff will develop scenarios to go through a financial analysis to understand additional information regarding costs, revenues advances, future revenues committed to debt service, and implications for Step 2. Scenarios will be assessed under the selected bond mechanism, which may add new considerations or complexity towards the incurred costs for bonding. The financial analysis will convey the different funding tradeoffs relative of each composed scenario while adhering to the bond principles in the Program Direction.

Metro staff will engage with community members on potential bond scenarios during this time frame through outlets such as Metro news. A first look at the draft financial analysis of the bond scenario analysis is anticipated for January 2025 with revised updates in February and March as input and further information on the regulatory and economic outlook comes into focus. The bond scenario analysis results will be shared with TPAC, JPACT, and Metro Council. The committees will have the opportunity to provide input and/or recommendations as they deliberate composing the preferred bond scenario/proposal.

Preferred Bond Scenario/Proposal Selection and Public Comment (February – May 2025)

The results of the bond scenarios assessment will be presented at TPAC and JPACT. At the committee meetings regional partners will have the opportunity to express their preferred bond scenario or local priorities, or components of different scenarios to create a preferred bond scenario/proposal. The preferred bond scenario will be assessed one last time to assure the size, schedule of repayment, and funding availability meet the bond purpose and principles. An update will be provided to the Metro Council nearing this stage of a potential preferred bond scenario. At the following meeting, Metro staff will request TPAC recommendation for JPACT to consider releasing the preferred bond scenario/proposal for public comment.

Step 1A.1 and Step 2 will converge at the public comment period, where the public comment will solicit whether there is general support for the preferred bond scenario, gather input on the Step 2 candidates. Following the public comment period, a summary and public comment report with responses and, as appropriate, recommendations in response to comments will be available for TPAC and JPACT deliberations.

Deliberations and Adoption (June – July 2025)

Following the public comment period and public comment report, the regional committees will have until July to deliberate on the preferred bond scenario/proposal. Any additions or significant changes via an amendment to the preferred bond scenario at this stage will be subject to re-evaluation for meeting policy objectives and financial analysis. Metro staff will request TPAC and JPACT for recommendation to approve the full 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation at their July 2025 meetings.

Table 2. 2028-2030 RFFA – New Project Bond Development – Key Dates

Activity	Date
Candidate project evaluation	October – December 2024

Activity	Date
Candidate project evaluation results and summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPAC first look of draft results; final results at JPACT Bond scenario concepts and themes input	December 6* & 19, 2024
Bond scenarios development and assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing concept and themes input Gather Metro Council input 	December 2024 – January 2025
Metro Council work session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on bond development process Gather input 	January 14, 2025
First draft bond scenarios with assessments released	January 10 & 16*, 2025
Second draft bond scenarios assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather TPAC input on preferred bond scenario 	February 7 & 20, 2025
Metro Council update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Format TBD 	March 2025
Request action to release recommended preferred bond scenario/proposal (TPAC and JPACT)	March 7 & 20, 2025
2028-2030 RFFA public comment opens	March 24, 2025
2028-2030 RFFA public hearing/testimony	April 17, 2025*
2028-2030 RFFA public comment closes	April 28, 2025
Summary of 2028-2030 RFFA public comments with responses and draft/tentative staff recommendations for refinements to TPAC & JPACT	May 2 & 15, 2025*
TPAC and JPACT opportunity to deliberate input received on preferred bond scenario and finalize the preferred bond proposal	June 2025
TPAC and JPACT action on 2028-2030 RFFA including the preferred bond proposal (Step 1A.1) and Step 2	July 2025

*Indicates tentative date. Unconfirmed on committee or Metro Council calendars or delivery date project work is on the aggressive side and may change.

