

JPACT Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Resolution No. 25-5505: For the Purpose of Endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension – JPACT APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION REQUESTED

Presenter: Alex Oreschak, Senior Transportation Planner, Metro

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Alex Oreschak

Purpose/Objective

Ask JPACT to approve Resolution No. 25-5505 and to submit it to Metro Council for approval. Approval of the resolution endorses the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and directs staff to prepare amendments to the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan reflecting the LPA.

On December 11, 2024, Portland City Council unanimously adopted the LPA for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension project.

The recommended LPA for high capacity transit to the Montgomery Park Area is streetcar transit with stations at the locations indicated on the attached map. This extension will allow the NS Line to operate between the Montgomery Park building and the South Waterfront. The route extension will operate on NW 23rd Avenue, as well as on a new one-way parallel couplet using NW Roosevelt Street, NW 26th Avenue, and NW Wilson Street (See Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5505).

Outcome

The Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension has been identified by the region as a top priority for transit investment. It is called out in multiple adopted plans including the 2009 Metro Regional High Capacity Transit System (HCT) Plan, the 2018 Regional Transit Strategy, the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and the 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy, which designates the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension as a Tier 1: near-term HCT corridor, the highest priority for HCT investment in our region.

Project outcomes identified in the RTP are improved travel connecting with the existing streetcar network, as well as necessary safety and accessibility improvements, including rehabilitation of NW 23rd Avenue and new multimodal street connections on NW Roosevelt Street, NW Wilson Street, and NW 26th Avenue. This project also supports land use changes and housing development, including new affordable housing units, as identified in the Montgomery Park Area Plan, which was also adopted by Portland City Council in December 2024.

The JPACT approval and recommendation to Metro Council and subsequent Metro Council approval of the LPA resolution will allow Metro staff to continue working with the City of Portland to:

- Amend the 2023 RTP to reflect the LPA and a high-level funding plan
- Pursue federal funding
- Complete federally-required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation
- Refine design and costing
- Support the implementation and construction of the project
- Open the streetcar extension in 2030

The resolution calls for LPA endorsement and directs staff to prepare amendments to the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan to reflect the LPA. The project is currently listed in the 2023 RTP. However, the 2023 RTP needs to be amended to reflect the LPA defining the mode, route, and general station locations and a high-level funding plan. The next steps and timeline for that future action include:

- Summer 2025: staff coordination to prepare amendments to reflect the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension LPA, as well as the TV Highway and 82nd Avenue LPAs
- Fall 2025: Public comment period
- Fall/Winter 2025: Review/discuss amendment and public comment at MTAC, TPAC, MPAC, JPACT, Metro Council
- Spring 2026: Seek adoption of RTP amendment

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

Metro staff presented to JPACT on the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension LPA in May 2025 to answer any questions and get feedback prior to asking JPACT to make a recommendation for endorsement to Metro Council. The LPA has not changed since JPACT's discussion in May.

Since that time, Metro staff have presented to the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC). On June 6, 2025, TPAC recommended that JPACT approve Resolution No. 25-5505.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- Resolution No. 25-5505, For the Purpose of Endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension
- Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5505: Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension LPA Language and Map
- Staff Report to Resolution No. 25-5505
 - Attachment 1: City of Portland Resolution No. 37692 and Exhibits A-C