



Engagement report

Public comments on the Step 1A.1
2028-30 Regional Flexible Funds bond
proposal.

June 2025

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Metro is the federally mandated metropolitan planning organization designated by the governor to develop an overall transportation plan and to allocate federal funds for the region.

The Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) is a 17-member committee that provides a forum for elected officials and representatives of agencies involved in transportation to evaluate transportation needs in the region and to make recommendations to the Metro Council. The established decision-making process strives for a well-balanced regional transportation system and involves local elected officials directly in decisions that help the Metro Council develop regional transportation policies, including allocating transportation funds. Together, JPACT and the Metro Council serve as the MPO board for the region in a unique partnership that requires joint action on all MPO decisions. This means JPACT approves MPO decisions and submits them to the Metro Council for adoption. The Metro Council will adopt the recommended action or refer it back to JPACT with a recommendation for amendment.

Project web site: oregonmetro.gov/rffa

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INTRODUCTION

Every three years, Metro leads a discussion among the region's residents, jurisdictional and public agency staff, and elected officials to select which transportation needs are to be funded with the region's allotment of federal transportation dollars, known as the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA).

Regional Flexible Funds comprise of two federal grant programs:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant funds may be used for projects to preserve and improve conditions and performance on public roads, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects.
- Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program funds may be used for surface transportation projects and other related efforts that reduce air pollution from transportation sources and provide congestion relief.

Metro is currently deciding how to invest an estimated \$150 to \$153 million in federal funding available in the federal fiscal years 2028 through 2030.

As the start of the 2028-30 Regional Flexible Funding Allocation process, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council adopt a Program Direction to set the objectives of the allocation of Regional Flexible Funds for the cycle. Two categories typically comprise a Regional Flexible Fund Allocation cycle where dollars are allocated among the categories and within the categories the funds are distributed by different policy and program objectives while adhering to the Program Direction. One of the categories – Step 1A – is a dedication of Regional Flexible Funds for debt servicing from previously issued bonds to build transportation projects.

Bonded Regional Flexible Funds have been used as required local matching funds to large federal grants to build out regionally significant transportation project that connect people throughout the three counties –Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington. In particular, the region's had success with bonding Regional Flexible Funds to build the region's MAX light rail network, the WES commuter rail and, more recently, the Frequent Express FX2-Division high-capacity bus. This history of innovative local funding strategies that unlock federal funds and collaboration made the Portland metropolitan area unique among other metropolitan areas.

For the 2028-30 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation cycle, representatives from public agencies and community organizations saw an opportunity to develop a new transit-focused project bond to unlock much needed federal funding for the greater

Portland region. With several larger-scale transit projects in development, the timing and opportunity of a new Regional Flexible Fund bond aims to support the projects advancing to construction and unlocking matching federal funds.

With support from regional partners, JPACT and the Metro Council directed Metro staff to develop a new bonding proposal for the Regional Flexible Funds, referred to as Step 1A.1, as part of the adoption of the 2028-30 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation Program Direction in July 2024.

Since the adoption of the Program Direction, Metro staff have worked with regional partners to identify candidate projects for inclusion in a Regional Flexible Fund bond proposal. At their March 20th, 2025 meeting, JPACT took action refer a Regional Flexible Fund bond proposal for public comment.

The Step 1A.1 bond proposal comprises of five candidate project and allocating up to \$88.5 million dollars. Candidate projects will need additional funding beyond those available from the Regional Flexible Fund process. Decision-makers are scheduled to make a decision in July 2025.

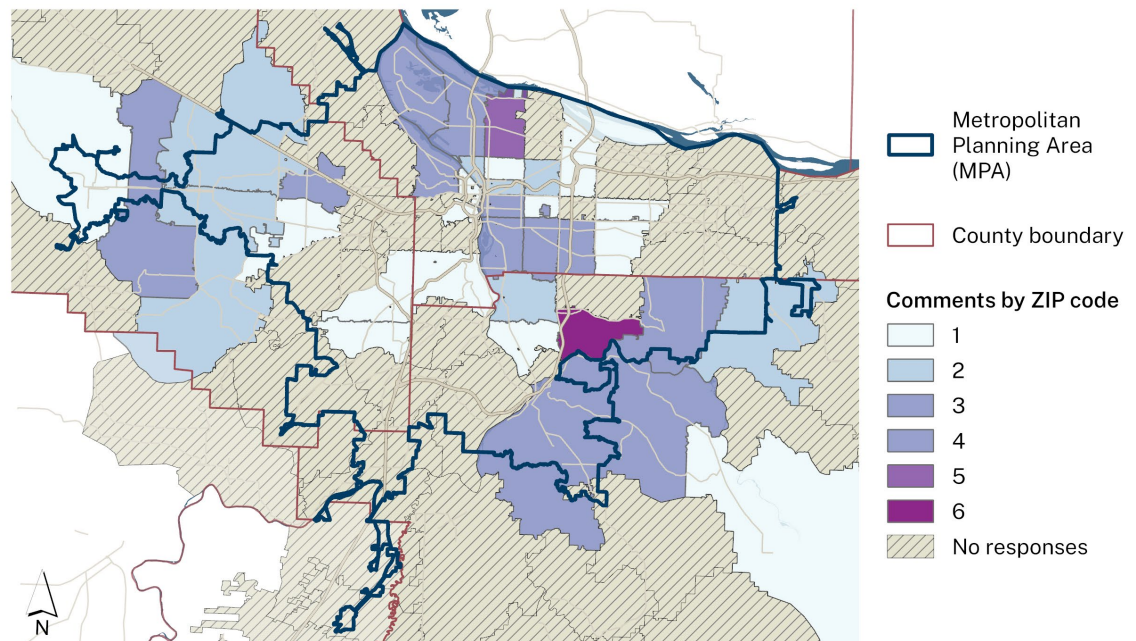
From March 26th through April 30th, 2025, residents of the Portland metropolitan region were asked to provide input on the Step 1A.1 Regional Flexible Funds bond proposal to be paid from funds available beginning to 2028. The five proposed projects will help make the region's transportation system more equitable, safer, cleaner and more reliable.

During this public comment period, Metro received:

- 225 participants provided 282 project-specific comments through an online open house available in English and Spanish. In addition, 139 open ended comments were provided through the open house.
- 27 emails were received from members of the public, with two providing general, non-project specific comments and 25 providing project specific comments. Two of those 25 provided comments on more than one project. (See Appendix B)
- A total of 38 comments were received at JPACT. Of the 38 comments, 17 of those were via oral public testimony at the April 17th JPACT meeting and 21 were via email.
- In addition, two comments from public agencies were received via email, and four were received at JPACT as email or public testimony
- No phone calls or mailed letters were received.

Online participants from across the region:

Fig. 1. Project respondents by ZIP code



NOTICE AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The notice and invitation to participate were distributed through several channels:

- An email to Metro's transportation interested persons email list
- CORE members email
- Metro News (<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/public-notice-opportunity-comment-transportation-projects-submitted-2028-30-regional-flexible>)
- Metro's social media channels on Facebook and Instagram
- Email invitation to committee members and interested persons for the Metro Council, Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, Metro Policy Advisory Committee, Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee and Metro Technical Advisory Committee
- See Appendix A: Notices and invitations to participate

People were invited to learn about the projects via:

- The 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Funds web page (oregonmetro.gov/rffa)
- An online open house with the ability to submit feedback and comments, available in English and Spanish. The online open house introduced the Step 1A.1 bond and the proposed projects. Participants were able to learn more about the proposed projects by going directly to the project website via the project weblinks. Participants could comment on their projects of interest.

Comments were accepted through:

- the interactive online open house, linked from the Metro website
- by email to transportation@oregonmetro.gov or rffa@oregonmetro.gov
- by letters to 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR, 97232
- by phone at 503-797-1750 or TDD 503-797-1804

The online open house was translated into Spanish. Social media content was offered in English and Spanish. Efforts reached a total of 72,247 people, 56,394 in English and 15,852 in Spanish. Of the total people reach via social media content, 1,457 people clicked on the ads. However, there were no Spanish survey responses. See Appendix A: Notices and invitations to participate.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

From March 26th through April 30th, 2025, residents of the Portland metropolitan region were asked to provide input on the Step 1A.1 Regional Flexible Funds bond proposal to be paid from funds available beginning to 2028. The five proposed projects will help make the region's transportation system more equitable, safer, cleaner and more reliable.

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- Additionally emails were

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- No phone calls or mailed letters were received.

(For the full text of these comments, see Appendices B – E.)

The open house asked participants to leave a comment on any of the five projects proposed for Step 1A.1 bond and also asked two optional open-ended questions. The optional open-ended comments included:

1. What would you like decision-makers to know as they weigh the opportunities and challenges of the proposed bond package?
2. What else would you like decision-makers to know?

The majority of email comments were in support of the projects they were commenting on. Some of the comments about projects expressed support for a project concept but hedged with concern about project design. For example, some comments showed support for the concept of an Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge, but concern about the fundamentals of the proposed design. Some comments did express overall concern about the project or indicated that the proposed project wasn't a priority.

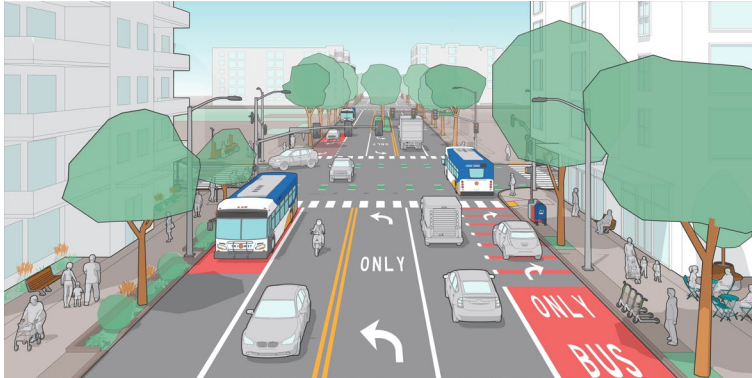
Table. 2: Number of Project Specific Comments Received by Project

Project	Comments
82nd Avenue Transit Project	61
Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project	67
Sunrise Gateway Corridor/Highway 212 Project	65
Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Project	39
Tualatin Valley Highway Safety and Transit Project	50
TOTAL	282

PROJECT COMMENTS

The following section describes each of the five proposed projects and summarizes the comments Metro received about each project.

82nd Avenue Transit Project



Location: 82nd Avenue from Clackamas Town Center to Portland's Cully neighborhood

Transit Project Category: Capital Investment Grant

Bond Proceeds Support: Construction

Project Sponsor: TriMet

Description: The project will upgrade TriMet Line 72 bus service on 82nd Avenue to zero-emission FX Frequent Express service. This will bring more service reliability and faster travel times to the corridor along with safety and accessibility improvements. Investments include enhanced pedestrian crossings or traffic signals at all stations, and new, accessible stations with shelters/weather protection, lighting, seating and real time arrival information.

Comments summary: Online survey participants indicated that marginalized communities stand to benefit from investment. A theme of comments was concern about a lack of bicycle infrastructure.

- 61 web tool comments
- 1 email

Sample comments:

"The 82nd Avenue Transit Project is a vital investment in one of the region's highest ridership and most equity-sensitive corridors. Upgrading Line 72 to FX Frequent Express service with zero-emission buses will improve speed, reliability, and safety for thousands of daily riders—many of whom are transit-dependent and from underserved communities....This is a shovel-ready project that delivers immediate and lasting benefit, and it deserves strong funding consideration."

"I am a strong proponent for this project. As an Asian American, I am inspired by the work organizations like APANO have done to uplift the Jade District around 82nd Avenue, which is one of Portland's most diverse communities. Having better, safer access to public transportation and walkability/bikeability would breathe further life into the Jade District."

"Any improvements along 82nd Ave are greatly appreciated. This is a major corridor that is often overlooked..."

"Strongly support enhanced bus service on 82nd, but I'm concerned that buses will not have a dedicated lane for the length of the corridor. I'm also concerned that the project has no bike facilities on 82nd."

"Decent project in an area that needs it. Don't constrict the roadway just to try to get more people on the bus."

This will have a huge impact on 82nd Ave! I live a few blocks off 82nd and it is so dangerous. I am scared to walk anywhere on or cross that street because of all the cars.

"This would help me and many people I know who don't drive help take transit easier."

"The good people of east Portland deserve the respect that this project would show them. I live in Tigard and already feel the respect, but east Portland needs attention."

"Keep 82nd the way it is... don't slow traffic, just add more red light crossings and time them for efficiency."

"This is a critically important project for one of the busiest bus lines in the region. Not only that but east Portland has been asking for improvements for decades. Please help to make this a reality."

Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project



Location: Burnside Bridge between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Southeast Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Transit Project Category: First/Last Mile; Transit Vehicle Priority

Bond Proceeds Support: Design and Construction

Project Sponsor: Multnomah County

Description: The project will replace the existing Burnside Bridge with a seismically resilient structure with enhanced transit, pedestrian and bicycle access. The project includes construction of an eastbound bus-only lane on the bridge to improve speed and reliability for TriMet Lines 20, 19 and 12. The project also includes the construction of an area for buses to pull over at the west end of the bridge, 17-foot-wide protected bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides, and modified traffic signals. Safe access to transit will be increased on the Burnside corridor, including new and reconstructed bus stops, pedestrian refuge islands, sidewalk reconstruction, bike lanes, and upgrades for accessibility.

Comments summary: Some survey respondents expressed concerns about the impact of construction on local businesses and traffic. The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge is frequently mentioned as a critical project for regional safety and resilience.

- 67 web tool comments
- 11 emails

Sample comments:

“Overall I love the project! I am excited for the protected ped and bike lanes especially. I think a critical element is connecting the bike paths with the eastside esplanade. It would be a shame to build a brand new bridge and not link it with that gem of a bikeway.”

“...The focus on transit and transit stops is so important in this project. I also appreciate maintaining the bus only lane, making bus travel time a high priority in this project.”

“This is so crucial to our region, and the bike, ped, and transit upgrades will benefit the central city immensely for decades. We must make sure these portions of the project remain fully funded...This would really enhance my everyday life and ensure that we have many ways of crossing the river if/when a large earthquake hits the region.”

“As far as I can tell, this funding would only close a small portion of the funding gap the project still has. While it is important as a regional lifeline route, it's not clear that this funding source is the most appropriate use of regional funding if it's not going to help ensure the project advances any time soon.”

“Anecdotally, it seems these improvements will ultimately be very disruptive. Consider how the alternatives will support the long-term closure of the bridge. Certainly a fan of seismically improving all needed facilities.”

“...While the total project cost is significant, this bond funding serves as a strategic contribution to a much larger, well-leveraged package. This is an investment not only in transit but in regional preparedness and long-term mobility.”

“I attended a Red Cross earthquake preparedness seminar a few years ago and was horrified to realize how cut off the east and west sides of Portland will be when “the big one” hits. Having an earthquake ready bridge is of utmost importance.”

“... We need one downtown river crossing to be operable after a big earthquake and transit should be an integral component of the project. This is a high priority.”

“...We need to connect our city and rebuild this bridge. It's no longer serving its purpose and needs to be addressed for the impending emergency that will destroy our city.”

“As someone who works downtown and lives on the east side... I think upgrading the Burnside Bridge should be a priority that will make Portland safer and more resilient in the event of a disaster.”

Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Project



Location: Northwest 23rd Avenue at Northwest Lovejoy Street to Montgomery Park

Transit Project Category: Capital Investment Grant

Bond Proceeds Support: Construction

Project Sponsor: City of Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)

Description: The project will extend streetcar to Montgomery Park in Northwest Portland through an extension of the North-South (NS) line along Northwest 23rd Avenue to a new parallel one-way couplet along Northwest Roosevelt and Northwest Wilson streets. The project includes stormwater, accessibility, and transit stop upgrades, as well as the rehabilitation of Northwest 23rd Avenue between Northwest Lovejoy and Northwest Vaughn Streets. The project will connect more people via transit to critical destinations and support the development of a new mixed-use district in Northwest Portland, with thousands of new housing units, including new required affordable rental housing.

Comments summary: Support for the Portland Streetcar Montgomery Park Extension Project mentioned the benefits of historic preservation and neighborhood identity. Some survey respondents questioned regional significance in a neighborhood well served by transit. Many comments were supportive, while also raising questions about funding uncertainty and timing.

- 39 web tool comments
- 2 emails

Sample comments:

“This is an important project to help open up new economic development and housing opportunities near the central city of Portland and to leverage the existing streetcar network. Also leveraging federal and private funding to help get these benefits and to fix 23rd is another strong feature of this project.”

“The Montgomery Park Streetcar Extension supports transit-oriented development, housing, and climate goals by connecting a growing district to the regional transit network. It enhances access to jobs, services, and future housing—including affordable units—while improving pedestrian and stormwater infrastructure. However, compared to other projects in the bond package, it serves a more localized area and may offer less immediate regional mobility impact. If funded, clear commitments to ridership gains, equity outcomes, and private sector cost-sharing should be prioritized to justify the public investment.”

“Please, please please fund this project! extension of the streetcar to Montgomery Park is incredibly important for the revitalization of the entire neighborhood, in addition to being a catalyst for several thousand units of housing development. our region is hampered by a housing shortage, and not funding this project means more people will be on our streets for longer.”

“Montgomery Park is already well-served by multiple bus lines, and I don't see many benefits in extending streetcar to serve the area...”

“The streetcars already suffer from very low use, so I struggle to understand why we would want to fund yet another one...Enhanced TriMet connectivity funding would be much better spent in areas without any useful service, like South 82nd or the neighborhoods surrounding Hwy 224.”

“I work in NW Portland (York Street) and the plan to redevelop the area to include housing and shopping (instead of just warehouses) will be a huge improvement. The streetcar extension will mean fewer people will feel compelled to own private cars in what will be a densely packed area.”

“Portland Streetcar special to Portland city, proper and its residence. (sic) Successful and helping people move and get around the city without a car detrimental to the cities core. This Project is more than just from Montgomery Park and is important upgrade to the entire Streetcar system.”

Sunrise Gateway Corridor/Highway 212 Project



Location: Along Highway 212/224 between 135th Avenue and 152nd Avenue

Transit Project Category: First/Last Mile and Safe Access to Transit

Bond Proceeds Support: Project Development and Preliminary Design

Project Sponsor: Clackamas County

Description: The project will complete the next critical steps of project development to support transit access to the Clackamas Industrial Area. The project includes work to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) re-evaluation for the Sunrise Gateway Concept and to develop 20% design plans for the proposed Sunrise Gateway Corridor connection between 122nd Avenue and 172nd Avenue. The project also includes work to prepare up to 100% design plans for the proposed Safety and Local Connections Project, a proposal to add urban arterials with complete street elements on Highway 212/224 between 135th Avenue and 152nd Avenue. Plans include a new roundabout, a new local roadway connection north of Highway 212/224, consolidated intersections, modifications to traffic signals, a grade-separated intersection at 142nd with a bicycle-pedestrian overpass, bus stop improvements and transit access elements to safely connect travelers to TriMet and the ClackCo Industrial Shuttle.

Comments summary: The Sunrise Corridor is seen as a strategic investment in regional prosperity, with benefits including economic growth and improved access to jobs. Some survey respondents expressed concern at the car centric nature of the proposed investment.

- 65 web tool comments
- 12 letters and emails

Sample comments:

“...By advancing this project, we unlock new possibilities—fueling growth that lifts families, empowers workers, attracts investment from developers, and strengthens local businesses. Together, we can build a foundation for lasting prosperity.”

“... The amount of traffic has increased significantly as the increase in housing in Clackamas County has increased. This is a very under-served area that is part of Metro. Its time Metro helped the working folks of Clackamas County.”

“This is a planning project not a capital project. I would not like this funded and would rather shovel ready projects be funded. This area is not zoned for density and I would prefer that it be rezoned first and the planning complete before funding is given.”

“We have no connections to the city of Happy Valley and traffic last hours each day. We are a working class community that deserves to have a city to be proud of not complaining about. People walk on highways, children cross the highway to get to school. We have population overflow with one road to even exit, causing serious congestion and safety issues for an emergency situation.”

“Sunrise corridor has been on the agenda since the late 1980's and the trucking industry has grown using the corridor for access to Hwy 26. The relatively small dollars for planning would be well spent.”

“...Building a new highway encourages driving and sprawl, saps funding for higher priority projects, and conflicts strongly with equity, safety, and climate goals...”

“This highway has become increasingly dangerous, we must create a safe environment for passengers, cyclist, and pedestrians.”

“The Sunrise Corridor is not only one of the fastest growing areas on Oregon, it's also likely to become the most congested and most dangerous if we don't plan and invest accordingly. Our children and families deserve the safety and security of multimodal transportation services outlined in the Sunrise Corridor proposal. Please consider supporting full funding of the project!”

“... the streets are congested during commute hours, often taking double or more the amount of time to get from point a to point b. We need to begin improvements on this roadway as only more development is planned.”

“...It's unsafe, congested, and not an efficiently designed road...I drive this route every day, and each year the traffic increases. This is a major route for the SE Portland suburbs as it connects to I-205, 224, and 99E. We deserve the upgrade.”

Tualatin Valley Highway Safety and Transit Project



Location: Tualatin Valley Highway between the Beaverton Transit Center and downtown Forest Grove

Transit Project Category: Capital Investment Grant

Bond Proceeds Support: Construction

Project Sponsor: TriMet

Description: The project aims to make transit access safer, to enhance rider experience, and to improve speed and reliability along the Tualatin Valley Highway. A new TriMet FX Frequent Express bus would replace the existing Line 57 with improved frequency from every 15 minutes to every 12 minutes, daily. Investments include all stations being paired with an existing or a new enhanced pedestrian crossing or traffic signal. All stations will be accessible and include shelters/weather protection, lighting, seating and real time arrival information.

Comments summary: There is mixed feedback on proposed improvements to TV Highway, with some online survey respondents advocating for significant changes and others opposing high costs. Themes of criticism focus on the interaction between different modes of transit. Increased access to transit is seen as extremely beneficial in connecting communities, supporting employment and engaging communities.

- 50 web tool comments
- 1 email

Sample comments:

"Bus rapid transit is an excellent idea for TV Hwy. We need to reduce congestion and improve transit travel times on this route. Pedestrian safety to access westbound stops is also critical between 209th and Murray where TV Hwy runs adjacent to the railroad with no sidewalks and signalized crossings are very far apart. This project could capitalize on recent work by ODOT to improve crossings here. This project will help more efficiently connect employment in Hillsboro, Central Beaverton, and transit connections to Portland with riders in Aloha, which has some of the most affordable housing in urbanized Washington County."

"This project is much-needed by the community and benefits from years of planning. The funds will lead to construction and improved transit. Many jurisdictions are collaborating together to deliver this project which shows how supported this is across four cities. It checks all the boxes for a good project."

"...Enhancing the safety and reliability of accessing public transit would likely mean more riders. This helps relieve road congestion, helps improve air quality, and ultimately enhances the livability of the community..."

"TV Highway: more traffic car (sic) lanes needed and think cost effective."

"This project is a long corridor and will benefit many communities. The narrower stretches of the service lines will benefit from better location for stops and faster service so traffic can keep moving in those areas."

"This project is long overdue. The bus stops along Highway 8 have been a huge barrier for bus use since I moved to Washington County 16 years ago. The lack of safety from traffic and the weather has led many in the County to believe that public transit isn't a viable option for commuting. With safer, more attractive, bus stops (and increased service) I am hopeful that the use of the bus system will increase and help eliminate pedestrian injuries..."

"I'd like more details, but this seems like a good way to better connect west side communities. I love the FX2 between Gresham and Portland and want that type of service expanded across the region. It is a huge improvement."

"...It is shovel-ready, leverages significant federal and local funding, and directly aligns with equity and climate goals. This project deserves strong support and prioritization."

"We need better service on TV Hwy but the price tag is so high for a service that is still mixing in general traffic..."

OVERARCHING COMMENTS

Survey respondents were also asked two open-ended questions:

- What would you like decision-makers to know as they weigh the opportunities and challenges of the proposed bond package?
- What else would you like decision makers to know?

Fig. 2 Open Ended Comments Received

Project	Comments
Question 1 opportunities and challenges	139
Question 2 what else?	100

Themes of open-ended comments:

Safety Concerns. Many respondents expressed concerns about safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. There is a strong call for safer pathways, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)compliant sidewalks, and bike lanes. Dangerous corridors like TV Highway and 82nd Avenue are frequently mentioned as needing significant safety improvements. Crashes and the need for better enforcement of traffic laws are also highlighted.

“Roads in Washington County were designed for cars, not for people walking, using a wheelchair or riding a bike. The side streets and pathways should be safe methods for travel for people of all ages and abilities.”

“Sidewalks are needed. Help kids get out and be safe.”

“I have seen many near misses of auto vs. pedestrians and heard first-hand stories of people having to dive into ditches to avoid being hit. Safety is a must for all populations, but even more so for vulnerable populations that make this a high ridership line that is spread through many communities.”

Transportation and Infrastructure Improvements. Comments suggest that roads should be designed for all users, not just cars. Maintenance issues such as fixing potholes were frequently mentioned, along with a need for better pedestrian and bike access. Respondents shared diverse opinions about the best design of proposed investments.

“I support improving our public transportation, it is important to work on car centric projects as well but improving public transportation FIRST to give people that option before widening or building new roads allows for more connected communities.”

“We need safe and reliable public transportation to decrease vehicles on the road and improve travel options for individuals who don't own and drive a vehicle. Safe public transportation begins at a rider's home. Sidewalks, good parking, clear and well-lit pathways and shelters make travel to access public transit safer and possible.”

Funding and Resource Allocation. Leveraging federal funds while they are available is seen as crucial, paired with concerns about future costs. Respondents shared a strong sentiment that money should be spent wisely, avoiding excessive debt and high-cost projects that do not provide significant benefits. Some comments express frustration with government spending and taxation.

“Some communities along this project have limited resources, so being able to partner with other, larger communities and receive bonding opportunities makes the improvement feasible for them.”

“Projects that secure funding from a variety of sources—including local dollars—are not only less risky but also more attractive to federal partners. Demonstrating broad financial support signals strong community commitment and significantly improves our chances of bringing more federal dollars into the region.”

“Please do not tie up our precious flexible federal funding with debt service on speculative mega-projects that do not have a good bang for the buck, are dubious in their benefits given the high costs, and depend on discretionary federal grants for funding. Interest rates are going to go up, and debt service is a bad idea. Just fund more of the Step 2 projects!”

Funding Concerns and Fiscal Responsibility. A recurring theme, with concerns about the long-term financial impact of bond issuances and calls for responsible spending. Respondents prefer funding construction-ready projects that will have immediate impact. Concerns center on uncertainty of federal funds and the ability of project sponsors to fund the unfunded portions of their projects.

“As decision-makers consider the Step 1A.1 bond proposal, I urge them to prioritize funding projects that best leverage federal matching opportunities, demonstrate clear readiness, and provide the broadest regional benefit across all three counties... I support strategic investment in foundational work such as Clackamas County’s Sunrise Gateway Corridor, recognizing that planning dollars now unlock construction dollars later. However, since it is still in early development, it may merit a slightly smaller share than more construction-ready projects unless paired with strong future funding assurances.”

“The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge has clear multi-modal and seismic resiliency value, but its total cost is so high that regional dollars should be seen as catalytic, not sustaining. The Montgomery Park Streetcar extension is innovative and supports land use and housing goals, but its return on transit investment must be weighed carefully against more urgent regional mobility needs.”

“If you're going to issue regional bonds the funds need to be used on projects that really benefit the whole region. Why would we issue a regional bond to fund early design costs of projects? Bonds are typically only issued to get construction done.”

Economic and Community Development. Comments stress the importance of projects that support job growth, housing development, and local businesses. Some participants shared an appreciation for projects that foster economic vitality and community engagement.

“These investments should advance mobility for all—especially historically underserved communities—and support climate resilience and regional connectivity. Transparency in project readiness and funding leverage will be key. Finally, ensure that smaller communities and suburban corridors remain part of the conversation—mobility needs don’t stop at city limits.”

“Investing in the Sunrise Corridor is an investment in the future economic vitality of our entire region. Without upgraded infrastructure, we risk missing out on transformative opportunities—opportunities to create jobs, attract private investment, grow local businesses, and improve quality of life for families and workers alike.”

Community Impact. Comments pressed that projects should advance mobility for all, especially historically underserved communities. Anti-displacement programs are seen as important to ensuring that residents can stay in their areas with the arrival of a major capital investment. The impact of construction on local businesses is a concern.

“Prioritize transportation options for the most vulnerable populations to get to/from destinations safely. Often public transportation is the only option to get where they need to go for work and shopping. When there is no option for a personal vehicle, safe and dependable public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian options are important.”

“It will help to support transportation options, job growth and access to housing options; investing in local community to help reduce commuting, keeping people within the communities where they can live and work.”

“Why would be spending all this regional attention and money on transit projects that only benefit a small percentage of the population? Instead use it to build roadway capacity that benefits the vast majority of us.”

Environmental Considerations. Comments stated that projects should support climate resilience and regional connectivity, with respondents advocating for projects that reduce vehicle emissions and address climate change.

“I'd love for some street trees to be installed near bus stops for enhanced the natural beauty of the areas. Tv highway is lacking alot of the common street scaping you see on newer roads. Personally, I think cherry blossoms up and down tv highway would really enhance the roadway and calm people. It'd also help with the road noise for nearby neighborhoods. You can hear the train for miles when it's crossing any street.”

“We can rebuild cherished structural heirlooms of civic pride destroyed by financial & environmental disaster on space reclaimed from cars to serve social capital & green initiatives. We can resurrect lost local landmarks with green technologies such as hempcrete. We can build on our proud electric railway heritage freeing us of car chaos for transit justice instead!!”

“Rubber tire microplastics from fast cars and buses are harmful.”

NEXT STEPS

Decision-makers are scheduled to take action on the bond proposal in July 2025. The near-term next steps are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Next Steps in the 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Bond Proposal (Step 1A.1) Process

Activity	Date
TPAC: Step 1A.1 bond proposal updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to discuss public comment received.• Preview of draft legislation with draft conditions of approval• Address miscellaneous items and next steps	June 6, 2025
JPACT: Step 1A.1 bond proposal updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to discuss public comment received.• Preview of draft legislation with draft conditions of approval• Address miscellaneous items and next steps	June 12, 2025
Metro Council Work Session: Updates on Step 1A.1 bond & Step 2 allocation package options	June 17, 2025
TPAC: Request TPAC recommendations to JPACT to approve the 2028-2030 RFFA Step 1A.1 bond	July 11, 2025
JPACT: Request JPACT approve and recommend the 2028-2030 RFFA Step 1A.1 bond for Metro Council adoption	July 17, 2025
Metro Council: Adopt 2028-2030 RFFA Step 1A.1	July 31, 2025

If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.

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