

Metro staff presented an overview of the I-5 Rose Quarter MTIP Formal Amendment at the February 7, 2025, meeting in advance of an approval recommendation that will be presented to TPAC during the March 7, 2025, meeting. Several TPAC members raised questions and asked for additional information about aspects of the Performance Evaluation Assessment (PAE) and the project. This summary provides additional information in response.

Topic 1: Project impacts on transit service and performance measures outputs on transit access to jobs and transit access to community places.

Response: Following the meeting, TriMet staff reported to Metro staff that the proposed project will not impact headways, but that it will degrade transit speeds. TriMet staff also shared a desire to more appropriately categorize impacts on access via transit. Since there is a negligible difference in access via transit, the Equity portion of the PAE has been changed from “increases in transit access” to “no significant change in access via transit”. The Equity table on pg. 8 of the PAE Summary (Attachment 2) has been updated to the following:

“Modeling shows an increase of access to jobs via drive commute from 437,713 to 437,916 region wide and ~~an increase from 73,711 to 73,715 for transit trips~~ no significant change in access to jobs via transit. For equity focus areas, there is an increase in access to jobs via drive commute from 450,816 to 451,005. For jobs accessible via transit there ~~is an increase from 89,378 to 89,386~~ no significant change.”

Topic 2: Project compliance with Metro’s Climate Smart Strategy and models used to analyze the project in the RTP and MTIP.

Response: Since the three proposed amendments would amend the 2024-27 MTIP, Metro staff used the same tools used in the adopted MTIP (Regional Travel Demand Model, MOVES, GIS) to measure performance of the proposed projects. The performance analysis used the MOtor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model to model emissions. The proposed MTIP projects show a very small increase in GHG emissions (less than 0.01%). The Climate table on page 11 of the PAE Summary (Attachment 2) includes additional information on the model results.

The 2023 RTP used the same three models, as well as one additional tool developed by ODOT, VisionEval. The 2023 RTP used VisionEval for its climate analysis because the region’s long term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets were set by the state using VE and are based on the policy levers that the VE model accounts for, including state-led actions adopted in the Statewide Transportation Strategy (STS) tests. The VisionEval model yields different results than MOVES because VE accounts for different policies than the travel model, including implementation of TDM and TSMO and the higher levels of state-led pricing actions adopted in the STS.

Topic 3: Ensuring investments are targeted to prevent death and serious injury crashes where they occur.

Response: The I-5 Southbound corridor through Rose Quarter is identified in Metro's 2018-22 High Injury Corridors (HIC) database with a percentile rank of 90%. Within the five-year period, a total of two fatal and 17 serious injury crashes occurred, and of those two involved pedestrians entering the freeway. (See Table 1 below.) The corridor qualifies as high injury because the percentile rank of the concentration score is between 80 and 100, meaning it is within the top 20 percent worst scores. I-5 Northbound is not identified in the HIC database.

It is difficult to ascertain the amount of investment to address fatalities and serious injuries in phase 1a and 1. Cost estimates provided in the proposed amendment include PE, ROW, utilities relocation, construction, and other. The cost estimates do not provide a breakdown of specific project elements that are safety countermeasures to address serious injuries and fatalities or their discrete costs. The proposed amendment provides funding for ramp-to-ramp lanes and improved shoulders on I-5 southbound between the Broadway exit and the Morrison Bridge exit. Project information explains that these project elements *“allow transitions without merging into traffic and are effective in improving safety”* and *“support improved traffic flow and will result in a safer experience with potentially less crashes.”*

Table 1: Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes, I-5 Southbound within Proposed Project Area (2018-2022)

Crash Type Description*	Fatal Injury (K)	Suspected Serious Injury (A)	Grand Total
2019	1	4	5
Driving in excess of posted speed		1	1
Improper change of traffic lanes		1	1
Made improper turn		1	1
Non-motorist illegally in roadway	1	1	2
2021	1	9	10
Disregarded traffic signal		1	1
Failed to avoid vehicle ahead		5	5
Improper change of traffic lanes		1	1
Inattention		1	1
Reckless Driving (per PAR)		1	1
Wrong way on one-way road; wrong side divided road	1		1
2022		4	4
Did not yield right-of-way		1	1
Failed to avoid vehicle ahead		2	2
Improper change of traffic lanes		1	1
Grand Total	2	17	19

*No reported crashes in 2018 & 2020

Topic 4: Ensuring that the proposed Bike/Ped bridge over I-5 is funded and built.

Response: Metro staff reached out to the ODOT team for additional information. Rose Quarter Project Director Megan Channell provided the response below:

“ODOT, together with partners, is committed to completing the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project in its entirety, as described in the federally approved Revised Supplemental Environmental Assessment. All elements of the project, including improvements on Interstate 5, the full highway cover, the surrounding surface streets, and the bike/ped bridge, are critical for this project’s success. The federal environmental review approval is for the full project and ODOT’s support for delivering all project elements is consistent with this federal approval and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. ODOT plans to continue to pursue additional funding at the state and federal levels, including working with legislative partners in the 2025 session, to bridge the gap between what has already been secured and what is needed to build the full project. ODOT fully supports the sentiments in the January 15, 2025 joint letter of partner support between the Albina Vision Trust, City of Portland, Portland Trail Blazers/Rip City Management and ODOT (included in the February 7 MTIP packet) that underscores this commitment to deliver the project in phases to match funding availability and support delivering the project in full to meet all of the project’s expected positive outcomes.”

Topic 5: Effects of the project on congestion on I-5 that result in changes to crash rates on nearby arterials.

Response: Metro staff performed the Travel Demand Model (TDM) analysis at the regional level to assess the effect of a large number of projects working in conjunction with each other within the 2024-27 MTIP. The 2024-27 MTIP contains 108 projects. The proposed amendment adds one additional project to the Travel Demand Model. To understand the effects of congestion on I-5 on crash rates on nearby arterials, a corridor level study would need to be performed and is beyond the scope of the MTIP amendment process. At the corridor scale, the TDM can provide more detailed metrics like line specific transit line ridership information, changes in average speeds on road facilities, vehicle volumes on facilities, and vehicle routing patterns. While other types of analysis like microsimulation/dynamic traffic assignment could be useful in assessing some local impacts of proposed projects, they are not within the scope of what Metro can provide to the MTIP amendment process.