

JPACT Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: JPACT workplan review

Presenters: Ted Leybold (he/him), Transportation Policy Director; Betsy Emery (she/her), Federal Affairs Advisor

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Purpose/Objective

The purpose of this item is to review the JPACT workplan for 2025 as proposed by the Metro staff and JPACT leadership. Staff will highlight items that are federal or state requirements, as well as regional projects and strategic JPACT initiatives. Staff will hear comments and discussion from JPACT members.

2025 workplan

2025 will be a busy year for JPACT and statewide transportation funding. Along with federally required items like the Regional Flexible Funds Allocation and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), JPACT will also continue to keep informed of happenings in the 2025 State legislative session that starts in February. JPACT will also need to approve locally preferred alternatives (LPAs) for three local projects to move forward in their work: 82nd Avenue, TV Highway, and Montgomery Park Street Car. Also included in our work plan are updates and decision points around regional program efforts and studies including the Community Connector Transit Study and the Regional Travel Options program.

Federal strategy

The JPACT workplan also includes our federal advocacy strategy for transportation policy and funding. With any change in administration and political leadership, it's important to reassess advocacy strategies and tactics to ensure they are most effective. Historically, JPACT's federal advocacy strategy has been a large group "fly in" to D.C. to lobby our members of Congress about our priorities. President-elect Trump's priorities to enact an FY25 budget, tax package, and large-scale immigration policies will likely limit capacity for conversations about transportation policy or the reauthorization bill this year. Advocacy opportunities at USDOT and FTA might also be impacted given the time it takes to staff up the Secretary's office. Further, we have two new Portland-area Members of Congress that will be orienting themselves to new committees and the inner workings of D.C.

Given that context, Metro's lobbyist and government affairs staff are considering a new federal advocacy strategy for this coming year that pivots away from the large group trip to D.C. in favor of in-district advocacy and targeted small group trips to D.C. that are tied to strategic opportunities. This new strategy could employ a variety of tactics, such as a bus tour with Members to highlight examples of high-impact projects across the region that received funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, meetings with USDOT or FTA staff that attend the JPACT conference in late October, or a small group trip to D.C. focused on advocating for the CIG program.

Outcome

JPACT members will understand the workplan for 2025, ask questions about initiatives the committee will undertake, and provide input on work plan activities.

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

JPACT annually reviews its work plan at the first meeting of the year. The workplan continually updated throughout the year.

What packet material do you plan to include?

Copy of the draft work plan