

STAFF REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING AS PART OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT 2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND DRAFT 2023 HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT STRATEGY

Date: July 17, 2023

Department: Planning, Development &
Research

Meeting Date: July 27, 2023

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ISSUE STATEMENT

A major update to the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (RTP) is underway and must be completed by Dec. 6, 2023 when the current plan expires. Over the last year, thousands of people who live, work and travel across greater Portland have shared their transportation needs and priorities. People want safe, affordable and reliable transportation – no matter where they live, where they go each day or how they get there. This input contributed to the draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan’s vision and strategy for investing in a transportation system that serves everyone. The input will continue to be considered, along with feedback received during this public comment period, as the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy are finalized this fall.

On June 29, Metro Council approved Resolution No. 23-5343 releasing the draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and draft 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy for public review and policy discussion. The public comment period is July 10 through Friday, August 25, 2023. The Metro Council will hold a public hearing on July 27 as part of the comment period. This public hearing is an opportunity for community members and other stakeholders to speak directly to decision-makers and inform finalizing the Regional Transportation Plan and High Capacity Transit Strategy for consideration by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council in November. Other methods of participating in the comment opportunity are outlined in **Attachment 1**.

Legislative hearings will also be held as the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan legislation is brought before the Metro Council. A hearing for the first read of the legislation is expected September 28, 2023, and a hearing for the legislative action is expected November 30, 2023.

ANTICIPATED EFFECTS

The public hearing on July 27 is the first of three hearings that are planned prior to final action on the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy. Following the comment period, Metro staff will prepare a Final Public Comment Report that includes transcriptions of verbal testimony provided during the public hearing, survey

results, online feedback and copies of all emails, letters, and transcriptions of voicemails received during the comment period as well as summaries of consultation meetings.

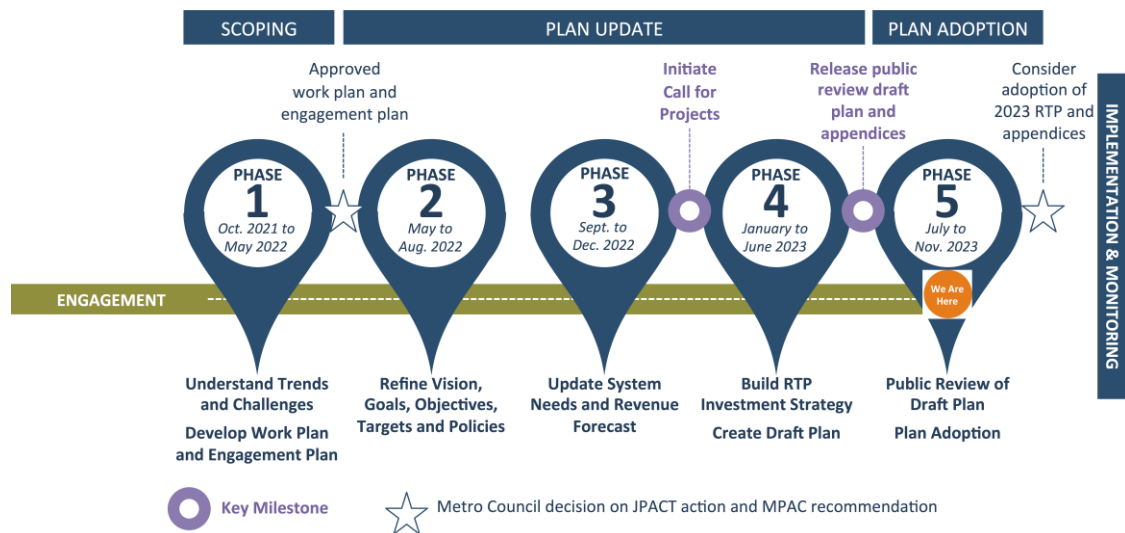
Metro staff will propose recommended actions to respond to substantive public comments received for consideration by Metro Council and Metro’s technical and policy advisory committees. The recommended actions will include amendments to the public review drafts of the Regional Transportation Plan and High Capacity Transit Strategy, recommendations for no change with an explanation as to why no change is recommended, and recommendations for future work.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Metro is the regional government responsible for regional land use and transportation planning under state law and the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Portland metropolitan area. Metro is the only regional government agency in the U.S. whose governing body is directly elected by voters. Metro is governed by a council president elected region-wide and six councilors elected by district. The Metro Council provides leadership from a regional perspective, focusing on issues that cross local boundaries and require collaborative solutions. As the federally designated MPO, Metro is responsible for leading and coordinating updates to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every five years. Metro is also responsible for developing a regional transportation system plan (TSP), consistent with the Regional Framework Plan, statewide planning goals and administrative rules, the Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP), and by extension state modal plans. As a result, the RTP serves as both the federally-required metropolitan transportation plan and the state-required regional TSP for the greater Portland region.

Shown in **Figure 1**, the region is entering the final adoption phase for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2023 High Capacity Transit (HCT) Strategy.

Figure 1. Timeline for the 2023 RTP Update



ATTACHMENT

- Public Comment Opportunity Handout