

2017 Metro Self-Certification

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization Designation

Metro is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) designated by Congress and the State of Oregon for the Oregon portion of the Portland/Vancouver urbanized area, covering 25 cities and three counties. It is Metro's responsibility to meet the requirements of federal planning rules as defined in Title 23 of U.S. Code Part 450 Subpart C and Title 49 of U.S. Code Part 613 Subpart A, the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule, which implements Statewide Planning Goal 12, and the Metro Charter for this MPO area. In combination, these requirements call for development of a multi-modal transportation system plan that is integrated with and supports the region's land use plans, and meets federal and state planning requirements.

Metro is governed by an elected regional council, in accordance with a voter-approved charter. The Metro Council is comprised of representatives from six districts and a Council President elected region-wide. The Chief Operating Officer is appointed by the Metro Council and leads the day-to-day operations of Metro. Metro uses a decision-making structure that provides state, regional and local governments the opportunity to participate in the transportation and land use decisions of the organization. Two key committees are the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC). These committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials and receive technical advice from the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC).

2. Geographic Scope

The Metropolitan Planning Area boundary establishes the area in which the Metropolitan Planning Organization conducts federally mandated transportation planning work, including: a long-range Regional Transportation Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for capital improvements identified for a four-year construction period, a Unified Planning Work Program, a congestion management process, and conformity to the state implementation plan for air quality for transportation related emissions.

The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary is a federal requirement for the metropolitan planning process. The boundary is established by the governor and individual Metropolitan Planning Organizations within the state, in accordance with federal metropolitan planning regulations. The MPA boundary must encompass the existing urbanized area and the contiguous areas expected to be urbanized within a 20-year forecast period. Other factors may also be considered to bring adjacent territory into the MPA boundary. The boundary may be expanded to encompass the entire metropolitan statistical area or combined as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget.

The current boundary was updated and approved by the Governor of Oregon in July 2015 following the release of the new urbanized area definitions by the Census Bureau. The planning area boundary includes the urbanized area, areas within the Metro jurisdictional boundary, urban reserve areas representing areas that may urbanize within the next 20 years, and the areas around 5 key transportation facility interchanges adjacent to and that serve the urban area.

3. Agreements

- A Memorandum of Understanding between Metro and the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) delineates areas of responsibility and coordination. Executed in April 2012, the Agreement will be updated in June 2018.
- In accordance with 23 CFR 450.314, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between TriMet, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Metro was executed in July 2008, to be updated in June 2018.
- Yearly agreements are executed between Metro and ODOT defining the terms and use of FHWA planning funds.
- Bi-State Coordination Committee Charter – Metro and eleven state and local agencies adopted resolutions approving a Bi-State Coordination Committee Charter in 2004. Some were adopted in late 2003 and the balance in 2004, which triggered the transition from the Bi-State Transportation Committee to the Bi-State Coordination Committee
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Metro and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) describing each agency's responsibilities and roles for air quality planning. Executed in September 2013, it will be updated in September 2016.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Metro and South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) outlines roles and responsibilities for transportation planning between Metro and SMART as required by federal transportation planning guidelines. Executed in July 2014, to be updated in July 2017.

4. Responsibilities, Cooperation and Coordination

Metro uses a decision-making structure, which provides state, regional, and local governments the opportunity to participate in the transportation and land use decisions of the organization. The two key committees are JPACT and MPAC. These committees receive recommendations from the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC).

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation

JPACT is chaired by a Metro Councilor and includes two additional Metro Councilors, seven locally elected officials representing cities and counties, and appointed officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), TriMet, the Port of Portland, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The State of Washington is also represented with three seats that are traditionally filled by two locally elected officials and an appointed official from the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). All transportation-related actions (including Federal MPO actions) are recommended by JPACT to the Metro Council. The Metro Council can approve the recommendations or refer them back to JPACT with a specific concern for reconsideration.

Final approval of each action requires the concurrence of both JPACT and the Metro Council. JPACT is primarily involved in periodic updates to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Metropolitan

Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and review of ongoing studies and financial issues affecting transportation planning in the region.

Bi-State Coordination Committee

Based on a recommendation from the I-5 Transportation & Trade Partnership Strategic Plan, the Bi-State Transportation Committee became the Bi-State Coordination Committee in early 2004. The Bi-State Coordination Committee was chartered through resolutions approved by Metro, Multnomah County, the cities of Portland and Gresham, TriMet, ODOT, the Port of Portland, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), Clark County, C-Tran, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Port of Vancouver. The Committee is charged with reviewing and coordinating all issues of bi-state significance for transportation and land use.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee

MPAC was established by Metro Charter to provide a vehicle for local government involvement in Metro's growth management planning activities. It includes eleven locally-elected officials, three appointed officials representing special districts, TriMet, a representative of school districts, three citizens, two Metro Councilors (with non-voting status), two officials from Clark County, Washington and an appointed official from the State of Oregon (with non-voting status). Under Metro Charter, this committee has responsibility for recommending to the Metro Council adoption of, or amendment to, any element of the Charter-required Regional Framework Plan.

The Regional Framework Plan was first adopted in December 1997 and addresses the following topics:

- Transportation
- Land Use (including the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB))
- Open Space and Parks
- Water Supply and Watershed Management
- Natural Hazards
- Coordination with Clark County, Washington
- Management and Implementation

In accordance with these requirements, the Regional Transportation Plan is developed to meet Federal transportation planning guidelines such as FAST Act and MAP-21, the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule, and Metro Charter requirements, with input from both MPAC and JPACT. This ensures proper integration of transportation, land use, and environmental concerns.

5. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Products

a. Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed annually by Metro as the MPO for the Portland metropolitan area. It is a federally-required document that serves as a tool for coordinating federally-funded transportation planning activities to be conducted over the course of each fiscal year, beginning on July 1st. Included in the UPWP are detailed descriptions of the transportation planning tasks, listings of various activities, and a summary of the amount and source of state and federal funds to be used for planning activities. The UPWP is developed by Metro with input from local governments, TriMet, ODOT, Port of Portland, FHWA and FTA.

Additionally, Metro must annually undergo a process known as self-certification to demonstrate that the Portland metropolitan region's planning process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable federal transportation planning requirements. Self-certification is conducted in conjunction with annual adoption of the UPWP.

b. Regional Transportation Plan

The Plan must be prepared and updated every 4 years and cover a minimum 20-year planning horizon with air quality conformity and fiscal constraint.

Scope of the planning process

The metropolitan planning process shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will:

- a. support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- b. increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- c. increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- d. increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
- e. protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- f. enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- g. promote efficient system management and operation; and
- h. emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) must establish and use a performance-based approach to transportation decision making and development of transportation plans to support the national goal areas:

- **Safety** - To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- **Infrastructure Condition** - To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair
- **Congestion Reduction** - To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System
- **System Reliability** - To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system
- **Freight Movement and Economic Vitality** - To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
- **Environmental Sustainability** - To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- **Reduced Project Delivery Delays** - To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices

Elements of the RTP

The long-range transportation plan must include the following:

- Identification of transportation facilities (including major roadways, transit, bike, pedestrian and intermodal facilities and intermodal connectors) that function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system.
- A description of the performance measures and performance targets used in assessing the performance of the transportation system and how their development was coordinated with state and public transportation providers
- A system performance report and subsequent updates evaluating the condition and performance of the transportation system with respect to the performance targets
- A discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the plan.
- A financial plan that demonstrates how the adopted transportation plan can be implemented; indicates resources from public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan; and recommends any additional financing strategies for needed projects and programs.
- Operational and management strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to manage vehicular congestion and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods.
- Capital investment and other strategies to preserve the existing and projected future metropolitan transportation infrastructure and provide for multimodal capacity increases based on regional priorities and needs.
- Proposed transportation and transit enhancement activities

c. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is a critical tool for implementing monitoring progress of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2040 Growth Concept. The MTIP programs and monitors funding for all regionally significant projects in the metropolitan area. Additionally, the program administers the allocation of urban Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding through the regional flexible fund process. Projects are allocated funding based upon technical and policy considerations that weigh the ability of individual projects to implement federal, state, regional and local goals. Funding for projects in the program are constrained by expected revenue as defined in the Financial Plan.

The MTIP is also subject to federal and state air quality requirements, and a determination is made during each allocation to ensure that the updated MTIP conforms to air quality regulations. These activities require special coordination with staff from U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), TriMet, South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART), and other regional, county and city agencies.

The 2015 -18 MTIP was adopted in July 2014 and was incorporated into the 2015 -18 STIP. Amendments to the MTIP and development of the 2018 -21 MTIP are included as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program work program.

The short-range metropolitan TIP includes the following required elements:

- A priority list of proposed federally supported projects and strategies to be carried out within the TIP period.
- A financial plan that demonstrates how the TIP can be implemented.
- Descriptions of each project in the TIP.
- Programming of funds in year of expenditure dollars.
- Documentation of how the TIP meets other federal requirements such as addressing the federal planning factors.
- The MTIP also includes publication of the annual list of obligated projects. The most recent publication was provided in December 2015. All prior year obligation reports are available on the Metro website.

D. Congestion Management Process

The 2007 SAFETEA-LU federal transportation legislation updated requirement for a Congestion Management Process (CMP) for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs – urban areas with a population exceeding 200,000), placing a greater emphasis on management and operations and enhancing the linkage between the CMP and the long-range regional transportation plan (RTP) through an objectives driven, performance-based approach. MAP-21 retained the CMP requirement while enhancing requirements for congestion and reliability monitoring and reporting. The most recent federal transportation legislation, FAST Act, retained the CMP requirement set forth in MAP-21.

A CMP is a systematic approach for managing congestion that provides information on transportation system performance. It recommends a range of strategies to minimize congestion and enhance the mobility of people and goods. These multimodal strategies include, but are not limited to, operational improvements, travel demand management, policy approaches, and additions to capacity. The region's CMP will continue to advance the goals of the 2014 RTP and strengthen the connection between the RTP and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

The goal of the CMP is to provide for the safe and effective management and operation of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of demand reduction and operational management strategies.

E. Air Quality Conformity

The Air Quality Program ensures the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for the Portland metropolitan area address state and federal regulations and coordinates with other air quality initiatives in the region.

The state and federal component of the Air Quality Program is the Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD) which is a technical analysis to determine the air quality impacts of the RTP and MTIP. An AQCD is made during the update to each MTIP and RTP or when amendments to the MTIP or RTP warrant a re-evaluation of air quality impacts. The AQCD requires special coordination with staff from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other regional, county, city and state agencies. The AQCD is guided by the transportation conformity rules set forth in the Clean Air Act and additional local requirements in the Portland Area Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan, which is a component of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The

SIP is overseen by DEQ and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). When Metro seeks approval of an AQCD the review and approval process are done in consultation with DEQ and EPA, but joint approval is issued by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

6. Planning Factors

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), passed by U.S. Congress and signed into law by the President in 2012, defines specific planning factors and national goal areas to be considered when developing transportation plans and programs in a metropolitan area. MAP-21 creates a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation investment program and builds on many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991. The most recent federal transportation funding act, *the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* continues all of the metropolitan planning requirements that were in effect under MAP-21.

Current requirements call for MPOs to conduct planning that explicitly considers and analyzes, as appropriate, eight factors defined in federal legislation:

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
9. Improving transportation system resiliency and reliability;
10. Reducing (or mitigating) the storm water impacts of surface transportation; and
11. Enhancing travel and tourism.

Table 1: MAP-21 Planning Factors

Factor	System Planning (RTP)	Funding Strategy (MTIP)	High Capacity Transit (HCT)
1. Support Economic Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTP policies linked to land use strategies that promote economic development. • Industrial areas and intermodal facilities identified in policies as “primary” areas of focus for planned improvements. • Comprehensive, multimodal freight improvements that link intermodal facilities to industry are detailed for 20-year plan period. • Highway LOS policy tailored to protect key freight corridors. • RTP recognizes need for freight linkages to destinations beyond the region by all modes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects subject to consistency with RTP policies on economic development and promotion of “primary” land use element of 2040 development such as centers, industrial areas and intermodal facilities. • Special category for freight improvements calls out the unique importance for these projects. • All freight projects subject to funding criteria that promote industrial jobs and businesses in the “traded sector.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCT plans designed to support continued development of regional centers and central city by increasing transit accessibility to these locations. • HCT improvements in major commute corridors lessen need for major capacity improvements in these locations, allowing for freight improvements in other corridors.
2. Increase Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RTP policies call out safety as a primary focus for improvements to the system. • Safety is identified as one of three implementation priorities for all modal systems (along with preservation of the system and implementation of the region’s 2040-growth management strategy). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects ranked according to specific safety criteria. • Road modernization and reconstruction projects are scored according to relative accident incidence. • All projects must be consistent with regional street design guidelines that provide safe designs for all modes of travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station area planning for proposed HCT improvements is primarily driven by pedestrian access and safety considerations.
3. Increase Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2014 RTP calls for implementing investments to increase system monitoring for operations, management, and security of the regional mobility corridor system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation security will be factored into the next MTIP update, following completion of the new RTP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System security has been a routine element of the HCT program, and does not represent a substantial change to current practice.

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Factor	System Planning (RTP)	Funding Strategy (MTIP)	High Capacity Transit (HCT)
4. Increase Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RTP policies are organized on the principle of providing accessibility to centers and employment areas with a balanced, multi-modal transportation system. • The policies also identify the need for freight mobility in key freight corridors and to provide freight access to industrial areas and intermodal facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable increases in accessibility to priority land use elements of the 2040-growth concept is a criterion for all projects. • The MTIP program places a heavy emphasis on non-auto modes in an effort to improve multi-modal accessibility in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned HCT improvements in the region will provide increased accessibility to the most congested corridors and centers. • Planned HCT improvements provide mobility options to persons traditionally underserved by the transportation system.
5. Protect Environment and Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RTP is constructed as a transportation strategy for implementing the region's 2040-growth concept. The growth concept is a long-term vision for retaining the region's livability through managed growth. • The RTP system has been "sized" to minimize the impact on the built and natural environment. • The region has developed an environmental street design guidebook to facilitate environmentally sound transportation improvements in sensitive areas, and to coordinate transportation project development with regional strategies to protect endangered species. • The RTP conforms to the Clean Air Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MTIP conforms to the Clean Air Act. • The MTIP focuses on allocating funds for clean air (CMAQ), livability (Transportation Enhancement) and multi- and alternative modes (STIP). • Bridge projects in lieu of culverts have been funded through the MTIP to enhance endangered salmon and steelhead passage. • Complete Streets projects funded to employ new practices for mitigating the effects of storm water runoff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light rail improvements provide emission-free transportation alternatives to the automobile in some of the region's most congested corridors and centers. • HCT transportation alternatives enhance quality of life for residents by providing an alternative to auto travel in congested corridors and centers.

Table 1: MAP-21 Planning Factors

Factor	System Planning (RTP)	Funding Strategy (MTIP)	High Capacity Transit (HCT)
5. Protect Environment and Quality of Life (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many new transit, bicycle, pedestrian and TDM projects have been added to the plan in recent updates to provide a more balanced multi-modal system that maintains livability. • RTP transit, bicycle, pedestrian and TDM projects planned for the next 20 years will complement the compact urban form envisioned in the 2040 growth concept by promoting an energy-efficient transportation system. • Metro coordinates its system level planning with resource agencies to identify and resolve key issues. 		
6. System Integration/ Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RTP includes a functional classification system for all modes that establishes an integrated modal hierarchy. • The RTP policies and Functional Plan* include a street design element that integrates transportation modes in relation to land use for regional facilities. • The RTP policies and Functional Plan include connectivity provisions that will increase local and major street connectivity. • The RTP freight policies and projects address the intermodal connectivity needs at major freight terminals in the region. • The intermodal management system identifies key intermodal links in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects funded through the MTIP must be consistent with regional street design guidelines. • Freight improvements are evaluated according to potential conflicts with other modes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned HCT improvements are closely integrated with other modes, including pedestrian and bicycle access plans for station areas and park-and-ride and passenger drop-off facilities at major stations.

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7. Efficient Management & Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RTP policy chapter includes specific system management policies aimed at promoting efficient system management and operation. • Proposed RTP projects include many system management improvements along regional corridors. • The RTP financial analysis includes a comprehensive summary of current and anticipated operations and maintenance costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are scored according to relative cost effectiveness (measured as a factor of total project cost compared to measurable project benefits). • TDM projects are solicited in a special category to promote improvements or programs that reduce SOV pressure on congested corridors. • TSM/ITS projects are funded through the MTIP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed HCT improvements include redesigned feeder bus systems that take advantage of new HCT capacity and reduce the number of redundant transit lines.
8. System Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed RTP projects include major roadway preservation projects. • The RTP financial analysis includes a comprehensive summary of current and anticipated operations and maintenance costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction projects that provide long-term maintenance are identified as a funding priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2014 RTP financial plan includes the 30-year costs of HCT maintenance and operation for planned HCT systems.

* *Functional Plan = Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, an adopted regulation that requires local governments in Metro's jurisdiction to complete certain planning tasks.*

MAP-21 also requires state DOTs and MPOs to establish performance measures and set performance targets for each of the seven national goal areas to provide a means to ensure efficient investment of federal transportation funds, increase accountability and transparency, and improve investment decision-making. The MAP-21 national goal areas are:

1. Safety
2. Infrastructure condition
3. Congestion reduction
4. System reliability
5. Freight movement and economic vitality
6. Environmental sustainability
7. Reduce project delivery delays

7. Public Involvement

Federal regulations place significant emphasis on broadening participation in transportation planning to include key stakeholders who have not historically been involved in the planning process, including the business community, members of the public, community groups, and other governmental agencies. Effective public involvement will result in meaningful opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process.

Metro is committed to transparency and access to decisions, services and information for everyone throughout the region. Metro strives to be responsive to the people of the region, provide clear and concise informational materials and address the ideas and concerns raised by the community. Public engagement activities for decision-making processes are documented and given full consideration.

Metro's public involvement practices follow the agency's Public Engagement Guide (formerly the Public Involvement Policy for Transportation Planning) which reflects changes in the federal transportation authorization act, MAP-21. Metro's public involvement policies establish consistent procedures to ensure all people have reasonable opportunities to be engaged in planning and policy process. Procedures include outreach to communities underserved by transportation projects, public notices and opportunities for comment. The policies also include nondiscrimination standards that Metro, its subcontractors and all local governments must meet when developing or implementing projects that receive funding through Metro. When appropriate, Metro follows specific federal and state direction, such as those associated with the National Environmental Policy Act and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development rules, on engagement and notice and comment practices.

In 2012, Metro created a new public engagement review process, designed to ensure that Metro's public involvement is effective, reaches diverse audiences and harnesses emerging best practices. Other components of the public engagement review process which will contribute to more inclusive engagement and accountability include an annual public survey, meetings of public involvement staff from around the region to address best practices, an annual community summit to gather input on priorities and engagement techniques, and an annual report.

Title VI – In April 2010, Metro completed and submitted its Title VI Plan to ODOT. This plan is now being implemented through updates to Metro's RTP and MTIP, and through corridor planning activities in the region. It includes both a non-discrimination policy and complaint procedure. On Aug.31, 2015, Metro submitted a Title VI Compliance Report to ODOT, covering a 12 month period from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. The next annual report will be due Aug. 30, 2016, covering July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. On Sept. 30, 2015, Metro submitted its updated Limited English Proficiency Plan as part of an updated Title VI Program to FTA.

Environmental Justice – The intent of environmental justice (EJ) practices is to ensure the needs of minority and disadvantaged populations are considered and the relative benefits/impacts of individual projects on local communities are thoroughly assessed and vetted. Metro continues to expand and explore environmental justice efforts that provide early access to and consideration of planning and project development activities. Metro's EJ program is organized to communicate and seek input on project proposals and to carry those efforts into the analysis, community review and decision-making processes.

Title VI and Environmental Justice in action – The information from and practices for engaging underserved communities were applied to the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update and the 2015-18 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), particularly in the civil rights assessment, which sought to better assess the benefits and burdens of regional, programmatic investments for these communities. Using the information from the RFFA process and engaging advocates helped define and determine thresholds for analysis of effects on communities of color, with limited English proficiency and with low-income as well as communities of older and younger adults. Feedback on this analytical process has led to an equity workgroup to further refine how Metro will assess the benefits and burdens of these regional programs on these communities for the 2018 RTP update and the next MTIP.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – In 2010, Metro established an agency diversity action team. The team is responsible for identifying opportunities to collaboratively develop and implement sustainable diversity initiatives across and throughout the agency. Metro's diversity efforts are most evident in three areas: Contracts and Purchasing, Community Outreach, and Recruitment and Retention. Metro initiated the Equity Strategy Program, with the objective of creating an organizing framework to help Metro consistently incorporate equity into policy and decision-making. In 2014 as a result of the work of the diversity action team, Metro's communication department explicitly identified a community engagement division, with a focus on better engaging historically underrepresented communities. These efforts aim to go beyond current regulations and guidance for engaging and considering the needs of and effects on communities of color, with limited English proficiency and with low incomes, but work in coordination with Metro's Title VI and Environmental Justice civil rights program. The *Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion* was adopted in June 2016.

8. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

The Metro Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) seeks to achieve the following:

- Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of assisted contracts;
- Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for assisted contracts;
- Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBE's;
- Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in assisted contracts; and
- Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.

Policy Statement

Metro is committed to the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBEs) in Metro contracting opportunities in accordance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 26, Effective March 4, 1999.

It is the policy of Metro to practice nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, and/or national origin in the award and administration of Metro assisted contracts. The intention of Metro is to create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for contracts and subcontracts relating to Metro planning and professional service activities.

The Metro Council is responsible for establishing the DBE policy for Metro. The Executive Officer is responsible to ensure adherence to this policy. The Assistant Director of Administrative Services and the DBE Outreach Coordinator are responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of the DBE program for contracts in accordance with the Metro nondiscrimination policy. It is the expectation of the Executive Officer that all Metro personnel shall adhere to the spirit, as well as the provisions and procedures, of the DBE program.

This policy will be circulated to all Metro personnel and to members of the community that perform or are interested in performing work on Metro contracts. The complete DBE Program for contracts goals and the overall annual DBE goals analysis are available for review at the:

Metro
Contracts Division
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

9. Americans with Disabilities Act

Metro is committed to ensuring its programs, services, facilities and events are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities. Over the last two decades Metro has completed reviews of its facilities and periodically reviews its policies and practices for compliance with a variety of laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Metro also systematically reviews new policies and practices for conformance to the requirements of federal and state civil rights and employment laws and requires design professionals, construction contractors and in-house maintenance staff to follow accessible design and construction standards, including the ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, during all new construction and renovations.

Metro provides services for people with disabilities –services include: devices and systems assistive listening devices, signage, American Sign Language or audio described interpretation, open captioning, Braille, etc.

In the coming reporting year, Metro will continue to review policies and procedures to ensure they address varying individual needs of persons with disabilities. Metro will seek to enhance staff's understanding of issues pertaining to serving persons with disabilities and create a clearing house to share best practices to broaden inclusion of persons with disabilities during public engagement opportunities.

(http://trimet.org/pdfs/publications/Coordinated_Human_Services_Transportation_Plan.pdf)

The Coordinated Plan will be incorporated into the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update.

10. Lobbying

Annually Metro certifies compliance with 49 CFR 20 through the FTA TEAM system.