

# Memo



**Metro**

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Date: January 16, 2018  
To: Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and interested parties  
From: Kim Ellis, RTP Project Manager  
Clifford Higgins, Communications Supervisor  
Subject: 2018 RTP Investment Strategy Development and Refinement

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) on 2018 RTP update related work that is planned or underway, and the timing of upcoming discussions and engagement activities that will lead to adoption of the 2018 RTP and strategies for freight, safety, transit, and emerging technologies (RTx) by the end of 2018. Planned upcoming discussions for 2018 are provided in **Attachment 1**. Planned engagement activities are summarized at the end of this memo.

## ACTION REQUESTED

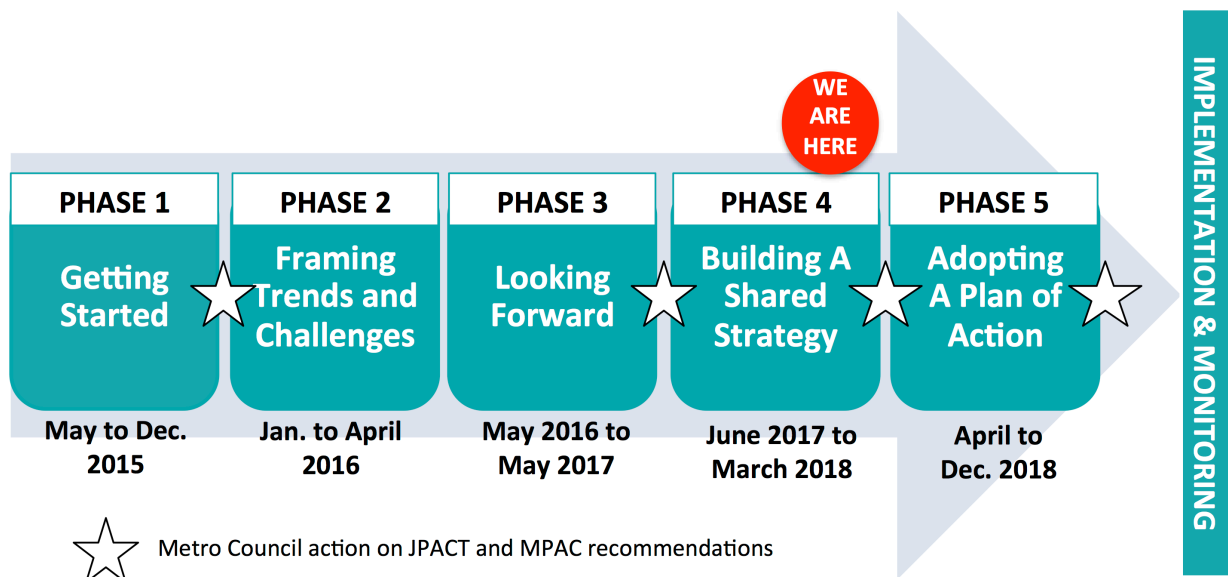
No formal action is requested. This is an opportunity for MPAC to ask questions about the work underway and planned engagement activities.

## BACKGROUND

The Portland metropolitan region's economic prosperity and quality of life depend on a transportation system that provides every person and business in the region with equitable access to safe, efficient, reliable, affordable and healthy travel options. Through the 2018 RTP update, the Metro Council is working with leaders and communities throughout the region to plan the transportation system of the future by updating the region's shared transportation vision and investment strategy for the next 25 years.

Shown in **Figure 1**, the plan update is in Phase 4 and on schedule.

**Figure 1. Timeline for 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update**



In December 2016 and February 2017, the Council reaffirmed their direction to staff to use development of the 2018 RTP to clearly and realistically communicate our transportation funding outlook and align the financially constrained project list with updated financial assumptions. This direction included developing a pipeline of priority projects for the regional transportation system for Metro and other partners to work together to fund and build. The Council also directed the RTP project list and RTP modal and topical strategies be developed in a transparent way that advances adopted regional goals, supports regional coalition building efforts, and emphasizes social equity, safety and climate change. On May 30, the Council further directed staff to move forward with the 2018 RTP Call for Projects as recommended by the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

Since May, staff continued to implement the adopted work plan and public engagement plan, consistent with previous Council policy direction. A summary of accomplishments and activities that are underway follows.

### **Project list development, evaluation and refinement**

- **Call for Projects completed in August.** Staff completed the initial RTP Call for Projects, working with the counties and cities, TriMet, ODOT and other agencies to update the region's project priorities based on direction provided by the Metro Council and JPACT. An interactive map of the projects submitted for evaluation and public review is now available at:

<http://drcmetro.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bd3660b8b7b347f4929edc85d758305f>

In addition, a summary and lists of the projects submitted can be downloaded from the project website at: [www.oregonmetro.gov/2018projects](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/2018projects)

- **System level and transportation equity performance evaluation continues.** Metro staff is completing the technical evaluation, using the updated evaluation framework agreed upon by JPACT and the Metro Council in May.

Through the end of 2017, staff reviewed the results with the technical work groups, TPAC and MTAC to develop findings for public review and discussion by JPACT, MPAC and the Metro Council in early 2018. Multnomah County and the Oregon Health Authority staff are completing a health impact assessment of the draft RTP projects. This information will be presented to TPAC and MTAC when available.

In addition, staff are preparing a discussion guide for policymakers that summarizes what was evaluated and findings from the evaluation. The final discussion guide will be available in February, in advance of Regional Leadership Forum #4. Based on feedback from TPAC and MTAC discussions, the guide will provide information on what was evaluated and how the different investment strategies performed, with comparisons to the adopted Climate Smart Strategy to the extent possible.

- **Assessment of the pilot project evaluation continues.** Metro staff summarized comments received from partner agencies on the pilot evaluation for initial discussion at a Dec. joint MTAC/TPAC/RTP Work Groups workshop. Through the end of 2017, staff reviewed the assessment and agency comments with the Performance Measure work group, TPAC, and



**Updated RTP Evaluation Framework**  
advances how we measure outcomes to inform priorities

MTAC, and develop recommendations for refinements. Proposed refinements to the project evaluation process and criteria will be brought forward for discussion by policymakers in early 2018 in advance of the draft project list refinement and final evaluation.

- **Refinement of draft RTP project lists.** Planning for the project list refinement period is underway. In March, staff will seek MPAC and JPACT endorsement of key takeaways from the Regional Leadership Forum #4 and 2018 RTP project priorities to inform refinement of the draft RTP project lists, with a focus on the first 10 years of the draft RTP investment strategy. The endorsement will inform Council direction to staff to work with jurisdictional partners to finalize the draft RTP projects lists for final public review and evaluation during summer 2018. The project list refinement period is planned for late March to late April. More information on the approach for updating the RTP Project Hub data and submitting updated project lists will be provided at a future meeting.

### **Policy and technical updates**

- **Goals, objectives, performance targets and policies review underway.** Recognizing this RTP update has an increased focus on addressing safety, equity and climate change, the adopted work plan calls for the policy framework to be reviewed and updated to more fully address these and other issues of concern identified through the process (e.g., congestion, maintenance, emerging technologies and funding). Last May, JPACT and the Metro Council directed staff to review and refine the RTP policy chapter, including:
  - **Review of RTP goals and objectives**, particularly goals related to safety, equity, climate change, accountability, transparency, congestion, maintenance, emerging technologies and funding. The review will seek to:
    - clarify the distinction between the vision, goals, objectives, performance targets and policies and their role in performance-based planning and decision-making;
    - reduce redundancy between the goals and objectives;
    - reflect priority outcomes identified through the process; and
    - better align the objectives with existing or desired data, including updated system evaluation and transportation equity measures and updates to the RTP performance targets to meet regional goals and federal and state requirements.
  - **Review of performance targets** to meet regional policy goals and federal and state requirements. The review will seek to:
    - clarify and update definitions and terms related to performance-based planning and measurement;
    - identify gaps in existing performance targets and opportunities to reduce redundancy;
    - update performance targets;
    - streamline how the 2018 RTP addresses state and federally-required target-setting and on-going performance monitoring, and reporting; and
    - define an action plan for system monitoring, including an approach to data collection, maintenance, sharing, and methods development.
  - **Review of modal policies and maps**, particularly the throughways/arterials, transit, and freight policies and system maps for each network. This review will seek to:
    - compile recommended changes to RTP system maps;
    - add a new freight safety policy;
    - expand policies for transit to reflect desired ridership, accessibility, convenience, frequency, reliability, and affordability performance outcomes;
    - expand policies for throughways and arterials to reflect desired access/connectivity, reliability and safety performance outcomes;
    - update relevant design policies;
    - draft new policy sections related to address safety, equity, climate change, and emerging technologies; and

- clarify the distinction between the modal policies in the RTP and modal strategies in the Regional Transit Strategy, Regional Freight Strategy and Regional Safety Strategy that are being developed concurrent with updating the RTP.

The regional bike and pedestrian network policies will not be subject to this review because they were extensively reviewed and updated as part of the 2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan. The system maps may be updated to reflect additions or updated functional classification designations stemming from local transportation plan updates and the RTP Call for Projects.

TPAC and MTAC will discuss initial findings and recommendations from this review at their February meetings. Discussions are expected to continue in 2018. JPACT and MPAC will have an opportunity to discuss recommended policy chapter changes in May as part of the draft RTP discussion.

- **Financially constrained funding assumptions updates to reflect House Bill 2017 underway.** Metro staff will participate in an ODOT-led working group tasked with updating the state transportation revenue forecast. An updated forecast is anticipated in Spring 2018. Council and JPACT will discuss the updated forecast when available.
- **Update to RTP implementation chapter to begin in 2018.** Metro staff will begin work to update the implementation chapter in early 2018. This chapter outlines future studies and other work needed to advance implementation of the RTP or resolve issues that could not be fully addressed during the update. This will include updating sections on needed regional mobility corridor refinement plans, planned project development activities (e.g., Southwest Corridor and Division Transit Project), performance monitoring, and other implementation activities to be undertaken post-RTP adoption. TPAC and MTAC will discuss staff recommendations for updates to this chapter in March 2018. Discussions are expected to continue in 2018. JPACT and MPAC will have an opportunity to discuss recommended implementation chapter changes in May as part of the draft RTP discussion.
- **Development of a transportation recovery and disaster preparedness element underway.** Metro staff will partner with Portland State University and the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RPDO) to map previously identified regional emergency transportation routes and prepare recommendations for future work and partnerships needed to more fully address this issue prior to the next RTP update (due in 2023). TPAC and MTAC will discuss the identified regional emergency transportation routes and recommendations for future work in early 2018.

#### **Modal and topical strategies development**

- **Development of the Regional Transit Strategy continues.** Staff continue to work with the Transit Work Group to develop a draft strategy, update the System Expansion Policy and define Enhanced Transit Concept (ETC) pilot corridors to advance to project development funded by the 2019-21 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA). TPAC discussed a proposed approach to the ETC pilot work at the October meeting, including working with County Coordinating Committees to identify the potential universe of Enhanced Transit locations to inform upcoming jurisdictional workshops. TPAC and MTAC will discuss a technical review draft transit strategy at their April 2018 meetings and receive periodic updates on the ETC work. The Metro Council, MPAC and JPACT will discuss the draft strategy in April and May 2018, before it is released for public review in June.
- **Update to the Regional Transportation Safety Strategy continues.** Staff finalized work with the Safety Work Group to develop a draft strategy for technical review. TPAC and MTAC discussed a technical review draft safety strategy at their November 2017 meetings. The Metro

Council, MPAC and JPACT will discuss the draft strategy in February and March 2018, before it is released for public review in June.

- **Update to the Regional Freight Strategy continues.** Staff finalized work with the Freight Work Group to develop a draft strategy. TPAC and MTAC discussed a technical review draft freight strategy at the January 3 joint TPAC/MTAC workshop. The Metro Council, MPAC and JPACT will discuss the draft strategy in April 2018, before it is released for public review in June.
- **Development of a policy framework and strategy for emerging transportation technologies (RTX) continues.** TPAC and MTAC discussed a proposed approach to this work at their September meetings, and discussed draft policies at the January 3 joint TPAC/MTAC workshop. The technical committees will discuss draft policies and strategies at their April 2018 meetings. The Metro Council, MPAC and JPACT will discuss a draft strategy in May 2018, before it is released for public review in June.
- **Update to Designing Livable Streets and Trails Guide continues.** Staff continue to work with the Design Work Group to update existing design practices. TPAC and MTAC received updates at their November meetings and will review proposed changes to regional design classifications maps in June 2018.

#### **Engagement and outreach**

- **Planning for 2018 public engagement and outreach activities continues.** In Jan. 2018, the draft investment priorities submitted by agencies along with findings from the evaluation will be shared with the general public for input during a planned 30-day comment opportunity. A community leaders forum will be held and targeted business outreach will occur during this period. The fourth (and final) Regional Leadership Forum is planned for Friday, March 2, 2018. The forum will be an opportunity for the Metro Council, JPACT, MPAC and invited business and community leaders to discuss public input, updated funding information and the results of the technical evaluation. Policy makers' discussions will be facilitated to articulate the 2018 RTP project priorities, particularly to identify desired project list refinements for the first 10 years of the RTP project list to better achieve regional goals for safety, equity, climate change, reliability and others.

#### **Final public review and adoption process**

- **Planning of the final 45-day public review period and adoption process is underway.** In June, staff will seek Council direction to release the Draft 2018 RTP and draft strategies for freight, transit, and safety for public review and comment. The comment period is planned for June 29 to Aug. 13 (pending legal staff review). The comment period will include a public hearing and consultation with tribes and federal and state agencies.

In early fall TPAC and MTAC will be asked to identify remaining policy issues to be discussed by MPAC, JPACT and the Metro Council prior to adoption of the 2018 RTP and strategies for freight, transit, and safety. The 2018 RTP will be adopted by Ordinance as a land use action to meet federal and state requirements. The strategies for freight, transit, safety, and emerging technologies (RTx) will be adopted by Resolution.

MTAC and TPAC will be requested to make final recommendations to MPAC and JPACT, respectively, in September. MPAC and JPACT will be requested to make final recommendations to the Metro Council in October. The Council is anticipated to consider final action on 2018 RTP (by Ordinance) and strategies for freight, transit, and safety (by separate Resolutions) on December 6, 2018.

More information about final public review and adoption process will be provided at a future meeting.