

Memo

Date: June 11, 2018
To: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and interested parties
From: Kim Ellis, RTP Project Manager
Subject: 2018 Regional Transportation Plan – June 29 Release of Draft 2018 RTP and regional strategies for public review

PURPOSE

Provide JPACT with an update on development of the draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (including updated project lists) and draft strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology for public review. Pending Metro Council direction, Metro staff will release the draft RTP and strategies for public review on June 29.

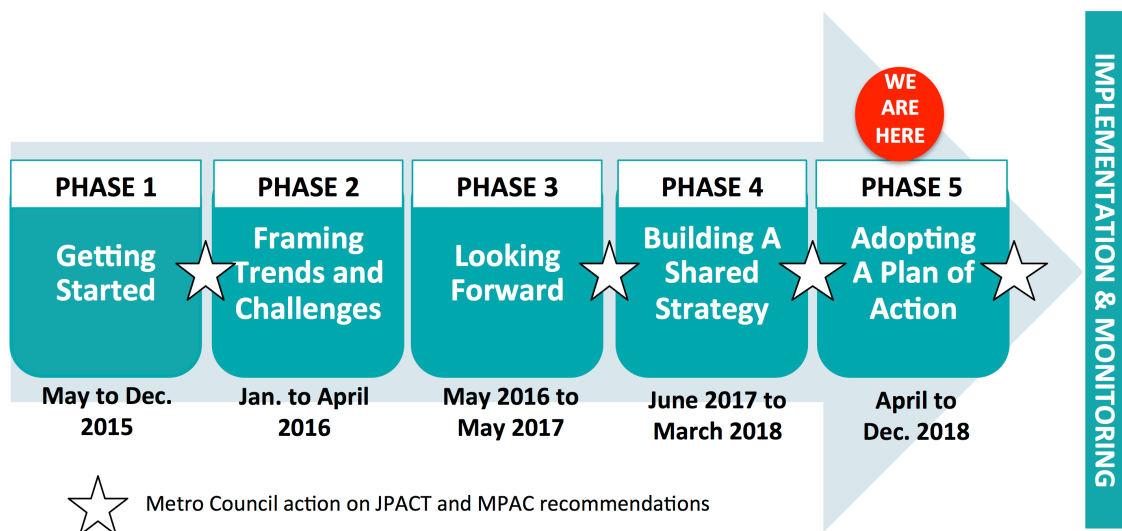
ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested. This is an opportunity for JPACT to ask questions about the process for finalizing the 2018 RTP for consideration by the Metro Council in December.

BACKGROUND

The greater Portland 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, reliable, healthy and affordable 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 region is in the final adoption phase for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and draft strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology.



A final 45-day public comment opportunity will be provided from June 29 to August 13, 2018. Metro staff will propose amendments to respond to public comments for consideration by the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) in September and October, respectively. In October, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) will be asked to make their respective recommendations to the Metro Council on adoption of proposed amendments and the 2018 RTP and strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology. In December, the Metro Council will be asked to consider MPAC

and JPACT's recommendations on adoption of the 2018 RTP and strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology.

SUMMARY OF PAST COUNCIL DIRECTION

- In **December 2016**, the Council **reaffirmed past 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.
- In **February 2017**, the Council **directed staff to develop the RTP, project list and strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology in a transparent way that advances adopted regional goals, supports regional coalition building efforts, and emphasizes equity, safety and climate change.**
- In **February 2017**, the Council **directed staff to use the Vision Zero framework and incorporate a Vision Zero goal** (zero traffic-related deaths and fatalities by 2035) in development of the RTP and Regional Transportation Safety Strategy for adoption by Council and JPACT. In April 2017, MPAC and JPACT supported use of the Vision Zero framework and goal in the RTP and safety strategy.
- In **May 2017**, the Council further **directed staff to move forward with the Call for Projects** as recommended by MPAC and JPACT. This direction included **approval of a vision statement** for the 2018 RTP, also approved by MPAC and JPACT, to guide development of the draft RTP project lists. Staff was also directed to **review the adopted 2014 RTP policy chapter to identify and recommend refinements** for consideration by the Metro Council and regional policy advisory committees in 2018.
- In **September, November and December 2017**, the Metro Council **reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the Climate Smart Strategy and prioritizing safety, racial equity and managing congestion** as the RTP is finalized in 2018, and identified specific steps to take to support those priorities.
- In **March 2018**, the Metro Council **requested that jurisdictions meaningfully review and refine their draft project list** to the extent practicable to help make more progress on key regional priorities – equity with a focus on race and income, safety, travel options, Climate Smart Strategy implementation and managing congestion.

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE MAY 1 WORK SESSION

- **Summary of project list updates submitted by jurisdictional partners.** Jurisdictions worked through coordinating committees in response to the Metro Council's request for project list updates to make more progress on key regional priorities. Evaluation of the revised project list is not yet complete. The project lists and initial evaluation results will be subject to further public review as part of the public comment period. The initial evaluation results will be reported in Chapter 7 of the draft 2018 RTP. An interactive map of the draft project lists can be viewed at www.oregonmetro.gov/2018projects.
- **Draft strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology are being finalized for public review**, reflecting feedback provided by the Metro Council, MPAC and JPACT during Regional Leadership Forums and between April and June.
- **The draft 2018 RTP is being finalized for public review.** A complete draft 2018 RTP will be available on June 29. A draft outline of the 2018 RTP is attached for reference. Key updates to the policy and implementation chapters include:
 - **Draft RTP Chapter 2: Our Shared Vision for Transportation.** In May 2017, JPACT and the Metro Council directed staff to review and refine the RTP goals, objectives and performance targets, particularly related to safety, equity, climate change, completion of the active transportation system, accountability, transparency, congestion, maintenance, emerging technology and funding.

Proposed updates to the goals and objectives implement previous Council policy direction and feedback from Regional Leadership Forums and regional advisory committee discussions, including:

- **simplify language** to reduce jargon and be more accessible to public audiences;
- **reduce redundancy** between the goals and objectives;
- make the **goal statements more people and outcomes focused**;
- better **reflect values and priority outcomes** identified through the RTP update;
- make the **objectives more specific and measurable**;
- better **align the objectives with existing or desired data and performance outcomes** as reflected in the updated system evaluation and transportation equity measures.

The draft Chapter 2 will be available on June 29, reflecting Council direction and policy and technical committee feedback.

- **Draft RTP Chapter 3: Transportation System Policies to Achieve Our Vision.** In May 2017, JPACT and the Metro Council directed staff to review and refine the RTP modal system policies, particularly the throughways/arterials, transit and freight policies and related network maps which reflect the vision and planned network for each mode of travel.

Proposed updates to RTP policies implement Council policy direction and feedback from Regional Leadership Forums and regional advisory committee discussions, and include:

- **new safety policies** that prioritize vulnerable users, addressing fatal and serious injury crashes and improving safety in high injury and high risk corridors as reflected in the draft Regional Safety Strategy reviewed by the Metro Council in April and JPACT and MPAC in May;
- **a new freight safety policy and minor updates to existing freight policies** as reflected in the draft Regional Freight Strategy reviewed by the Metro Council in April and JPACT and MPAC in May;
- **new and updated policies for transit** to reflect desired outcomes for access, convenience, frequency, reliability, and affordability as reflected in the draft Regional Transit Strategy reviewed by Council in April and JPACT and MPAC in May;
- **clarify and expand policies for throughways and arterials and the motor vehicle network** to reflect adopted policy and desired outcomes related to safety, universal access and complete street designs, connectivity, reliability and managing the transportation system and addressing regional bottlenecks to ease congestion as reflected in the policies;
- **new equity policies** that prioritize eliminating disparities and barriers for historically marginalized communities, particularly people of color and people with low income to support implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Executive Order 12989 and Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Construction Career Pathways Program;
- **new emerging technology policies** as reflected in the draft Emerging Technology Strategy reviewed by MPAC and JPACT in May and the Metro Council in June;
- **new and updated Transportation System Management and Operations policies** to better reflect existing policies, provide more focus on managing the transportation system to ease congestion and integrate new and revised policies in the 2018 Regional Travel Options Strategy adopted by JPACT and the Metro Council in May;
- **minor revisions to existing climate smart strategy policies**, reflecting that the policies were extensively reviewed as part of development of the 2014 Climate Smart Strategy; and
- **minor revisions to the regional bike and pedestrian policies**, reflecting that the policies were extensively reviewed and updated as part of development of the 2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan and 2014 Regional Transportation Plan.

The packet includes a draft Chapter 3 that will continue to be updated in advance of the comment period to reflect Council direction and policy and technical committee feedback. Detailed descriptions of each existing policy area have also been updated, and descriptions have been developed for the new policy sections identified above. Staff recommendations for updates to the regional modal network maps are being finalized. Most modal network map updates will be minor, largely reflecting new RTP projects adopted through local and regional plans.

- **Draft RTP Chapter 8: Moving Forward Together (Implementation).** The draft chapter outlines future planning and other work needed to advance implementation of the RTP or resolve issues that could not be fully addressed during the update. This includes updated sections that describe local planning, on-going regional programs, future region-wide planning, multimodal corridor refinement planning to develop shared investment strategies, major project development activities (e.g., Southwest Corridor, Division Transit Project, I-5/Rose Quarter, OR 217 auxiliary lanes, I-205 south widening and the I-205/Abernethy bridge widening), performance monitoring, and other implementation activities to be undertaken post-RTP adoption. The packet includes a draft Chapter 8 that will continue to be updated in advance of the comment period to reflect Council direction and policy and technical committee feedback.
- **Planning for the final 45-day public review period and adoption process continues.** On June 21, staff will seek Council direction to release the draft 2018 RTP (including updated draft project lists) and draft strategies for freight, transit, safety and emerging technology for public review and comment. All public comment materials, including a briefing packet, will be available on June 29. The comment period is planned for June 29 to Aug. 13, and will include a public hearing on Aug. 2, an online survey and consultation with tribes and federal and state agencies. Two additional hearings will be held in November and December as part of the adoption process. Staff is also planning a community leaders' forum ahead of the comment period to brief them on the refined project list, policies and strategies and help them prepare their constituencies to comment. The packet includes a flyer announcing the public comment period and a summary of engagement and outreach conducted to date.

UPCOMING JPACT DISCUSSIONS

A schedule of remaining Council and regional advisory committee discussions is attached for reference, including these upcoming JPACT discussions:

- 9/20 Overview of TPAC recommendation** on proposed amendments identified by Metro staff in response to public comments on draft 2018 RTP and draft strategies for safety, freight, transit and emerging technology
- 10/18 Make final recommendation to Council** on adoption of 2018 RTP and strategies for freight, transit, safety, and emerging technology

ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Comment Opportunity on the 2018 RTP (5/25/18)
2. 2018 RTP Engagement and Outreach Summary (4/30/18)
3. 2018 Council and Regional Advisory Committee Briefings Schedule (6/6/18)
4. Draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Outline (6/8/18)
5. Draft 2018 RTP Chapter 3 (Transportation System Policies to Achieve Our Vision) (6/11/18)
6. Draft 2018 RTP Chapter 8 (Moving Forward Together) (6/11/18)
7. Draft Constrained Project List Overview and Summary of Major Throughway and Transit Projects *(to be provided at the meeting)*