

METRO COUNCIL

Work Session Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: 07/31/18

LENGTH: 30 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: SW Corridor Update on LRT Preferred Alternative Selection

DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development

PRESENTER(S): Chris Ford (x1633, chris.ford@oregonmetro.gov) and Eryn Kehe (x1881, eryn.kehe@oregonmetro.gov)

WORK SESSION PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOMES

- **Purpose:** Update Council on progress and upcoming steps for Southwest Corridor Plan.
- **Outcome:** Receive Council input on upcoming decision on final alignment of SW Corridor light rail.

TOPIC BACKGROUND & FRAMING THE WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

The Southwest Corridor Plan is a package of transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian projects that can help reduce congestion, increase transportation options, improve safety and enhance quality of life in Southwest Portland and southeastern Washington County.

Since the last update to Council in July 2016, the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee recommended the set of light rail project components to study in the federal environmental review process, including 13 alignment options in Portland, Tigard and Tualatin. That work culminated in the publication of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in June 2018. The public comment period on the DEIS began June 15 and ends July 30.

In August, the Steering Committee is scheduled to recommend the Preferred Alternative for the light rail project. The Preferred Alternative must identify the final light rail alignment, stations and termini and will be used as the basis for TriMet's advanced design work and Metro's continued environmental review. Council will consider adoption of the Preferred Alternative into the Regional Transportation Plan update later this year.

The DEIS included an initial route proposal suggested by project partner staff which has served as a basis for public input, but has not yet issued its recommendation on the Preferred Alternative. Staff will provide an update on the DEIS findings and the rationale for the initial route proposal, and ask Council for input.

Public engagement on the Southwest Corridor Plan has continued to be extensive. Staff will provide an update on these efforts which include:

- The community advisory committee (CAC) for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project (created by Council Resolution 16-4751). The CAC's final meeting on July 30 will include a vote on a recommendation for the Preferred Alternative, which staff can share.
- Open houses, public hearings, information sessions and presentations to councils, committees, neighborhood groups and business organizations about the initial route proposal, DEIS public comment period and the upcoming Preferred Alternative decision.
- Mailed notification of the DEIS public comment period to over 10,000 addresses on the project around plus more than 700 letters sent to owners of properties who may be adversely affected by one or more light rail alignments under study.

- Interactive maps, newsletters and other materials intended to inform and engage.
- Email updates to our interested parties list, which has over 2,000 subscribers.

The Southwest Corridor Plan is one of the major projects in the Investment Areas group of Planning & Development, and will implement an important initiative of the Regional Transportation Plan. The Southwest Corridor Plan touches upon a number of other Metro programs and regional issues, notably around active transportation, fulfillment of the 2040 Growth Concept, and equitable housing.

Next steps for the Southwest Corridor Plan are:

- August 13 – Steering Committee recommendation on Light Rail Preferred Alternative
- September and October – local jurisdiction and agency endorsements of Preferred Alternative
- October and November – staff comes to JPACT and returns to Metro Council for adoption of Preferred Alternative into the Regional Transportation Plan update

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- Does the Council have any questions or feedback for staff on the information presented today?

PACKET MATERIALS

- Would legislation be required for Council action ☐ Yes ☒ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- What other materials are you presenting today?
 - Southwest Corridor Plan Summer 2018 Newsletter
 - Executive Summary of the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement