

REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT MEASURE OUTCOMES

Date: Jan. 16, 2019

Prepared by: Craig Beebe, x1584,
craig.beebe@oregonmetro.gov

Department: GAPD

Presenters: Tyler Frisbee,
tyler.frisbee@oregonmetro.gov;
Andy Shaw, andy.shaw@oregonmetro.gov
Length: 60 min

Work session date: Jan. 31, 2019

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council seeks to make transformative investments that help people get around greater Portland more easily and safely. The Metro Council has directed staff to develop a regional transportation funding measure for the Council to consider referring to voters in 2020. Staff requests further Council guidance on the outcomes that the measure should advance; Council's desired role for an advisory Transportation Funding Task Force; and direction on the corridors and other areas that should be considered for inclusion in the measure.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Jan. 24 work session: Clarify objectives and outcomes for potential transportation investment measure; Approve charge for advisory task force
- Jan. 31 work session: Identify candidate transportation corridors and other investment areas for consideration
- Feb. 7 Council meeting: Approve resolution confirming appointment of advisory task force

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Metro Council has previously indicated its desire that a regional measure:

- Be truly regional, delivering benefits to residents and businesses throughout greater Portland's three counties and 24 cities
- Advance racial equity through the measure's development and implementation
- Reduce climate emissions and support projects, programs, and policies that will advance Metro's Climate Smart Strategy
- Support investments that make it safer, easier and faster to use a variety of transportation options
- Advance the Southwest Corridor light rail project, delivering a congestion-proof transit option to one of the region's busiest and fastest-growing travel corridors
- Bring together a wide coalition of interests and partners, as well as community members, to support a broad, bold package of investments in the region's future

POLICY QUESTIONS

- What additional objectives or outcomes, or clarifications to those already identified, does Council wish staff to carry forward in the measure's development? (Jan. 24)
- What is the Metro Council's charge to a Transportation Funding Task Force that will advise the Metro Council during the development of a funding measure? (Jan. 24)
- Where are the corridors and other places most in need of transportation investment? (Jan. 31)

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Staff will present potential corridors to the Metro Council on Jan. 31. The Metro Council may choose to approve these for further consideration, or discuss modifications or additions. This set of corridors will likely serve as the larger list which future iterations of Metro Council and the Transportation Funding Task Force will use to further narrow investment priorities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Everybody in greater Portland deserves safe and reliable ways to get to work, school, and other destinations, and back home again. However and wherever we travel, we all depend on roads, buses, trains and streets that work for many kinds of people and many kinds of trips – from commuting and moving goods to running errands and visiting friends.

Greater Portland's population is growing dramatically. Our transportation system needs to keep up. As more and more vehicles squeeze onto highways and bridges, traffic spills into neighborhoods and jamming main streets and centers, disrupting livability and making communities less safe. Buses and MAX are more crowded and less reliable, while other options like biking and walking feel unsafe to many, even for short trips. The toll is paid by all of us, in hours wasted, deliveries delayed and lives lost – with the burden disproportionately falling on communities of color and other marginalized communities.

We can and should do better. Transportation connects us all – it should also make our communities stronger.

Metro has been working since early 2018 to lay the foundation of a collaborative, comprehensive investment plan that makes getting around safer, faster and more affordable for everyone. The Metro Council has directed that this plan include investments throughout the region, supporting the many ways residents travel today and in the future. The council has been clear that this work must place advancing racial equity and addressing climate change at its core. The council also seeks to engage a wide range of community members, partners and leaders to identify smart solutions supported by a broad coalition.

The passage of the regional affordable housing bond in November demonstrates greater Portland voters' eagerness to work together to address the critical issues we face. The Metro Council is considering a parks and nature bond in 2019 to carry Metro's work protecting and connecting nature and people into a new decade. As greater Portland faces the future, a regional transportation investment measure in 2020 could represent another

significant opportunity to connect priorities and make meaningful, strategic investments that improve lives and increase opportunities throughout the region.

BACKGROUND

In late 2017, the Metro Council directed staff to work with partners and the community on a coordinated regional investment strategy for affordable housing, transportation, and parks and nature, to address the challenges of growth and keep greater Portland livable.

In December 2018, the Metro Council adopted a major Regional Transportation Plan update, following years of engagement that included over 19,000 touch points with residents, community and business leaders, and regional partners. Through the extensive engagement that shaped the plan, Metro heard clear desires from residents for safe, smart, reliable and affordable transportation options for everyone and every type of trip. Built around key values of equity, climate, safety, and congestion relief, the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan recognizes that a growing and changing region needs a new vision for serving people's transportation needs.

Metro has engaged jurisdictional and community partners to begin scoping a potential regional transportation investment measure, focusing on potential priority outcomes such as easing traffic, saving lives, improving local connections, moving goods and improving the system's resiliency. Staff discussed this work with the Metro Council at work sessions in February and July 2018.

In early 2019, Metro and partners begin a new phase of identifying potential places and investments the measure should support. This will include the Metro Council appointment of a Transportation Funding Task Force with community leaders from throughout the region; engagement with community partners and the public, particularly communities of color; and detailed project development with agency partners.

Staff seek Metro Council's guidance on key objectives for the potential transportation investment measure, and the potential corridors and communities where transportation investment is most needed to advance these outcomes. This guidance will help provide a framework for further engagement, as well clear direction for the Transportation Funding Task Force to begin its work in February.

In work sessions on January 24 and 31, 2019, the Metro Council will discuss these issues and provide direction to staff. The Metro Council may appoint the Transportation Funding Task Force on Feb. 7, 2019.

Metro Council will continue to direct staff in future iterative policy discussions, including direction on options for investments, programs, oversight and implementation of the measure. The Metro Council could consider referring a measure to voters in spring 2020.

- Is legislation required for Council action? **Yes**
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? **No**