

# MPAC Worksheet

## Agenda Item Title

Construction Career Pathways Project – Regional Framework

**Presenter:** Sebrina Owens-Wilson

## Purpose/Objective

Our objective is to update MPAC members on the progress of the Construction Career Pathways Project which offers a comprehensive regional policy framework for increasing career opportunities for women and people of color to meet the demand for a skilled construction workforce.

### *Background on Construction Career Pathways Project*

In 2018, Metro and City of Portland commissioned a construction workforce market study in anticipation of upcoming public construction projects. This study clearly showed:

- Construction is a high-growth industry reporting a severe shortage in skilled workers
- There is a need for nearly 14,000 construction workers between now and 2021 on 81 known publicly funded projects
- The need for construction workforce will only increase in the next ten years as new construction projects arise and nearly 20% of the workforce is at or near retirement age
- The construction workforce has been historically homogenous – currently only 4% women and 20% minorities, and
- People of color and women are more likely to work in the lower paying trades.

There is an opportunity for meaningful regional collaboration to:

- Build economic prosperity through construction careers that provide family-sustaining wages
- Ensure equitable benefit from public capital project investments for underrepresented communities
- Create more effective and efficient use of public resources and investments, and
- Address significant barriers for people of color and women in accessing and growing careers in construction. Current barriers include:
  - Inconsistent nature of construction work, and
  - Lack of sufficient and consistent funding and resources for education, training, and support services.

To address these challenges, a Public Owner Workgroup was convened in the summer of 2018 to develop the Construction Career Pathways Project Regional Framework. This framework meets the goals of the project to:

- Support and grow a diverse construction workforce,
- Gain efficiencies in public construction projects, and
- Promote equitable growth in the region's economy.

The framework is the right thing to do to build toward an equitable future throughout greater Portland. And it is an opportunity to maximize the impact of publicly funded construction projects.

### *Public Owner Workgroup*

- City of Beaverton
- Beaverton School District
- Bureau of Labor and Industries
- Home Forward
- Metro
- Multnomah County
- North Clackamas School District
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon Health Sciences University
- Port of Portland
- City of Portland
- Portland Community College
- Portland Public Schools
- Portland State University
- Prosper Portland
- TriMet

### **Action Requested/Outcome**

(What action do you want MPAC to take at *this meeting*? State the **policy** questions that need to be answered.)

- Our primary outcome is to provide an informational update on the policy framework and answer questions.
- Additionally, what does MPAC advise for effective regional collaboration on the implementing and monitoring of the Construction Careers Pathways Project?

### **What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?**

For nearly a year, many of the agencies represented at MPAC have played a vital role in developing the regional policy framework as members of the Public Owners' Workgroup. On July 2, 2019, the workgroup will be finalizing the framework with the goal of full public endorsements by September.

### **What packet material do you plan to include?**

Construction Career Pathways Project Overview