

Memo



Metro

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Date: Monday, Dec. 30, 2019
To: Metro Council
From: Craig Beebe, Government Affairs and Policy Development
Subject: Regional transportation measure public hearing

On Jan. 13, 2020, the Metro Council will hold an open house and public hearing regarding potential investments to make getting around the greater Portland region safer and easier for all.

The public hearing follows a work session on Jan. 7, 2020, in which the Metro Council will receive recommendations from the Transportation Funding Task Force for proposed investments in improved safety, transit and mobility in 13 “Tier 1” corridors designated by the Metro Council. After careful discussion of desired measure outcomes and values, the Task Force recommended these be considered for a potential 2020 regional transportation investment measure at its Dec. 18 meeting. The Task Force’s recommendations build on months of Metro engagement with community-based Local Investment Teams as well as project development with jurisdictional partners.

The Task Force recommendations are described in a memo from Task Force co-chairs Pam Treece and Jessica Vega Pederson, to be attached to this memo in early January.

Open house

Prior to and during the public hearing, staff will hold an open house with maps of the 13 Tier 1 corridors and Task Force recommendations in each, along with information about the additional regionwide funding programs that could be included in a transportation measure to make investments beyond these corridors. Metro staff will be joined by staff from partner agencies to help describe these projects to interested community members. The open house will begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue through the public hearing.

The public hearing is expected to be opened by the Metro Council President at 6 p.m.

Additional background

In December 2018, the Metro Council adopted a Regional Transportation Plan update, following years of engagement that included more than 19,000 engagements with residents, community and business leaders, and regional partners. Through the extensive engagement that shaped the plan, Metro heard clear desires for safe, smart, reliable and affordable transportation options for everyone and every type of trip. The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan is therefore built on key values of equity, climate, safety, and congestion relief.

At work sessions in January 2019, the Metro Council provided guidance on key outcomes, principles and the structure of a potential investment measure to help advance these values. The council also approved a charge for a diverse and regionally inclusive Regional Transportation Funding Task Force. Co-chaired by Commissioners Jessica Vega Pederson and Pam Treece, the Task Force has met 16 times. To date, the Task Force has reviewed Metro Council direction and policy applying to the regional investment measure, identified additional desired outcomes, provided input to Council on priority corridors and regionwide programs, discussed possible revenue mechanisms, and made recommendations on potential Tier 1 investments.

In June, informed by input from the Task Force and an online survey completed by approximately 3,500 area residents, the Metro Council directed staff to move 13 “Tier 1” corridors into further

project identification, development and engagement. The council also identified 16 “Tier 2” corridors that could also be considered for funding if there is revenue capacity. Over summer 2019, three Local Investment Teams toured the Tier 1 corridors and provided feedback to inform staff and Task Force project recommendations.

In September, informed by input from community forums in the spring and Task Force discussions in the summer, the Metro Council provided direction on nine regionwide programs to continue developing for potential inclusion in the measure; these programs would advance Council outcomes and meet community needs beyond the priority corridors identified in the measure. Staff are now developing these program concepts further through engagement with community and jurisdictional partners, with an expectation that they would include approximately \$50 million in total annual investment for 20 years. At the Metro Council’s direction, staff are also continuing to develop a community stability program that would support the development of community-based anti-displacement strategies in corridors funded through the measure. Staff plan to bring a refined program recommendation to the Metro Council in April.

Next steps

Following the public hearing, staff will seek Council direction at work session on Jan. 14, 2020, regarding which potential investments in Tier 1 corridors should continue to be considered for inclusion in a measure. Staff will then work with jurisdictional partners to conduct further project development and assessments of project costs and risks. Community engagement on a potential measure package will continue into the spring.

The Metro Council will continue to direct staff in future iterative policy discussions, including direction on options for project investments, possible additional corridors to include in the measure, regionwide funding programs, revenue mechanisms, oversight and accountability, and implementation. The council could consider referral to voters in late spring.