

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING A NEW)	RESOLUTION NO. 20-5076
PROJECT TO THE 2018-21 METROPOLITAN)	
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT)	Introduced by: Chief Operating Officer
PROGRAM SUPPORTING PROJECT)	Andrew Scott in concurrence with
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR TRIMET'S)	Council President Lynn Peterson
NEW SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL)	
PROJECT (FB20-08-FEB)		

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) prioritizes projects from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to receive transportation related funding; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council approved the 2018-21 MTIP via Resolution 17-4817 on July 27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, JPACT and the Metro Council must approve any subsequent amendments to add new projects or substantially modify existing projects in the MTIP; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued clarified MTIP amendment submission rules and definitions for MTIP formal amendments and administrative modifications that both ODOT and all Oregon MPOs must adhere to which includes that all new projects added to the MTIP must complete the formal amendment process; and

WHEREAS, MTIP amendments now must also include assessments for required performance measure compliance, expanded RTP consistency, and strive to meet annual Metro and statewide obligation targets resulting in additional MTIP amendment processing practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, TriMet is ready to initiate and complete project development work in support of the new Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line project which proposes to construct a light rail line from downtown Portland to Tigard and Bridgeport Village in Tualatin along with other required roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian related projects and has an estimated total project cost of \$2.85 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, TriMet will be the lead agency to deliver the project which proposes a construction schedule from September 2023 through December 2026 with service implementation planned to start during the fall of 2027; and

WHEREAS, the programming of the project develop scope of work into the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase will support efforts to complete the NEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), selection of the final route alignment, complete up to 30% design and determine cost estimates to move forward into final engineering which is scheduled to commence as of February/March 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line will serve a projected 37,500 average weekday rides as of 2035, carry one-in-five southbound commuters leaving downtown Portland in the PM peak as of 2035, and

WHEREAS, the SW Corridor Light Rail Line will expand multi-modal commuting alternatives to the personal vehicle and help to keep shorter commuting times and lower congestion cost to Tigard and Tualatin residents for an area that is projected to grow by 75,000 residents and create 65,000 new jobs by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line will create the required transportation infrastructure to support local and regional plans such as the Tigard Triangle Strategic Plan, Barbur Concept Plan and 2040 Growth Concept enabling these plans to accommodate continued population and job growth without a proportionate increase in traffic congestion by supporting transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project will contribute to the local economy during and after construction with the project expecting to bring nearly \$1.3 billion in Federal matching funds, generating over 20,000 jobs, and with MAX costs less to operate per ride than buses, making the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project Line an economically sustainable investment; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line will connect existing and future jobs and homes along with Portland State University, Oregon Health & Science University, National University of Natural Medicine and Portland Community College at Sylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line will provide a new transit “backbone” for the local bus system in southeastern Washington County including new transit centers plus park-and-ride lots to enable people to easily switch between travel modes; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line will result in the construction in up to thirteen stations with six planned to include park-and-ride lots; and

WHEREAS, with the expected approval by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), these funds will be eligible for use toward required local match for federal New Starts funding on the project; and

WHEREAS, the a review of the approved and constrained 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) affirms consistency between the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line being programmed in the MTIP and the RTP; and

WHEREAS, the MTIP’s financial constraint finding is maintained as proof of funding has been supporting the planned project development work from TriMet; and

WHEREAS, no negative impacts to air conformity will exist as a result of the changes completed through the February 2020 Formal MTIP Amendment consisting of the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line project; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line project development project successfully completed a required 30-day public notification/ opportunity to comment period without any significant issues raised; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s Transportation Policy and Alternatives Committee (TPAC) received their notification, amendment summary overview, and recommended approval to Metro Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) on February 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, JPACT received their notification on February 20, 2020 and provided an approval recommendation to Metro Council; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby adopts the recommendation of JPACT on March 5, 2020 to formally amend the 2018-21 MTIP to include TriMet's Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line Project Development project.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ____ day of _____ 2020.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney