

REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY: TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT MEASURE

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council has directed staff to work with community and partners on a potential 2020 transportation investment measure. The measure is designed around project investments in some of the region's most congested and dangerous travel corridors and additional programs to extend benefits to communities across the region.

Metro staff will provide an update on the timeline and development amid the current coronavirus crisis. In addition, staff seek the Metro Council's direction on investments proposed by jurisdictions in four "Tier 2" corridors. Staff will prepare a recommendation for Council's review prior to the work session.

ACTION REQUESTED

Provide direction on whether proposed Tier 2 corridor investments should be included in a final project recommendation for the measure.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Metro Council has directed that a measure advance the Regional Transportation Plan, Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, and Climate Smart Strategy; engage diverse partners and community members; and leverage other state, federal, regional and local investments. The Metro Council approved specific policy outcomes for the potential transportation measure and appointed a Transportation Funding Task Force in early 2019.

In order to advance its desired policy outcomes, the Council has directed staff to develop a measure that focuses investments in key regional travel corridors and also includes regionwide investment programs to spread benefits throughout the region. Council direction on the measure structure is further described in the "Background" section below.

POLICY QUESTIONS

Do investments proposed in Tier 2 corridors advance the Council's desired outcomes for the potential measure?

Which Tier 2 corridors should be included in the final project recommendation for the transportation, and at what scale of funding?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Full jurisdiction proposals for Tier 2 corridor investments are attached to this worksheet.

The four proposals can be summarized as follows:

- Highway 217: Three phases of investment, including corridor planning (\$2 million), preliminary engineering (\$25-27 million) and project design and construction between Walker Road and Allen Boulevard (\$105-125 million). Proposed by Washington County.
- Highway 43 Multimodal Improvement Project: \$54 million to improve safety and access to transit between Hidden Springs Blvd. and I-205 in West Linn. Proposed by the City of West Linn.
- Highway 99W Corridor Planning: \$3.5 million-5 million for corridor planning from Tigard to Sherwood. Proposed by Washington County.
- Sunset Highway Corridor Planning: \$1.2 million for corridor planning in the broad corridor between Portland and Hillsboro. Proposed by the City of Hillsboro.

Staff will provide a recommendation memo prior to the April 7 work session.

For each of the proposed Tier 2 corridor investments, Council may direct staff to:

- Include the full proposed investment in the final corridor project recommendation
- Include portions or phases of the proposed investment for inclusion in the final recommendation
- Do not include the proposed investment and corridor in the final recommendation
- Council may also propose changes or add considerations for proposed Tier 2 investments.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Portland region, along with the rest of the nation and world, is experiencing a time of extraordinary uncertainty. But as we get through this crisis, communities will be looking for leadership to create jobs and generate the economic activity to drive our region's recovery. People will need jobs. People will still need safe, reliable, and accessible transportation choices. Meanwhile, the greater Portland area can be expected to continue to grow.

Work on the transportation measure began several years ago, in close collaboration with many stakeholders and thousands of community members. This work has always been about working together to make communities strong, improve lives and help people access opportunities and places they care about. Such goals continue to matter – indeed, they matter more than ever.

The Metro Council designated 17 “Tier 2” corridors in June 2019, based on input from the Task Force, engagement findings and Metro staff's recommendations. These corridors were considered to have potential to advance key Task Force and Metro Council values, but with less urgent needs or fewer identified projects. The Metro Council directed that Tier 2 corridor investments should complement, not supplant, Tier 1 corridor investments.

The Council directed that individual Tier 2 corridors could be considered for investment in the regional investment measure if an agency partner or group of agency partners could demonstrate:

- the corridor and projects on that corridor align with Task Force and Metro Council desired outcomes for the measure
- those projects are supported by the local community
- those projects bring benefits and resources to parts of the region that aren't already directly impacted by other corridors in the measure.

Local jurisdictions interested in having a Tier 2 corridor included in the measure were directed to develop proposals for review by the Task Force and Metro Council, with a focus on describing how these investments could advance Task Force and Metro Council's desired outcomes, as well as discussion of public engagement to date, risks and supporting partners.

The Transportation Funding Task Force held two meetings to learn about and discuss the four proposals submitted by jurisdictions. Following Task Force feedback at the Feb. 19 meeting, Washington County revised its proposal for the Highway 217 corridor. After the March 18 Task Force meeting (held via Zoom), members were asked to complete an online survey with their feedback and advice to the Metro Council.

Feedback from the Task Force, as well as preliminary staff analyses of the proposals, will help shape staff's recommendation to Council.

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 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 will have met 21 times by the date of this work session. The Task Force has reviewed Metro Council direction and policy regarding the measure; identified additional desired outcomes; provided input to Council on priority corridors, statewide programs and possible revenue mechanisms; made recommendations on Tier 1 investments; and reviewed potential Tier 2 corridor investments.

In June 2019, 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.

Metro staff released a preliminary Tier 1 corridor projects and regionwide programs recommendation to the Transportation Funding Task Force in October 2019. The Task Force finalized their recommendations – most of them unanimous – on Dec. 19, 2019. The \$3.81 billion in proposed Tier 1 investments would leverage approximately \$2.62 billion in expected federal and local funds, for a total of \$6.43 billion in corridor investments. In December, after months of engagement and discussion of staff investment recommendations, the Transportation Funding Task Force recommended roughly \$3.81 billion in measure investments in thirteen Tier 1 corridors. These investments would leverage more than \$2 billion in expected federal and local investments, and complement proposed regionwide programs making additional investments beyond the corridors.

At work sessions in January and March, Council reviewed the Task Force’s Tier 1 corridor recommendations, directing staff to proceed with further project development for all of the unanimous recommendations while raising additional questions and considerations about several investments. Staff continue to follow Council’s direction in developing a final project recommendation for the Council’s consideration in late spring.

In September 2019, informed by input from community forums in the spring and Task Force discussions in the summer, the Metro Council advanced ten regionwide programs to for potential inclusion in the measure, at an expected investment of \$50 million annually. Staff are developing these programs further with community and jurisdictional partners. Programs include creating community-based anti-displacement strategies in the measure’s corridors. Following extensive engagement in February and March 2020, staff plan to present a program recommendation to the Metro Council in late spring.

Council is expected to consider referral to the November 2020 ballot in late spring or early summer.

- Is legislation required for Council action? **Legislation will be required for referral but staff are not seeking legislation for this direction.**
- **Attachments:**
 - Full jurisdiction corridor investment proposals, including letters of support from jurisdictional partners and responses to Task Force questions
 - Staff recommendation (to be provided later on, prior to the work session)