

REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY: TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT MEASURE REGIONWIDE PROGRAMS

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Development

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council has directed staff to continue work with community and partners on a potential 2020 transportation investment measure to make getting around the Portland region easier, safer and more affordable, while creating tens of thousands of jobs and advancing the region's racial equity and climate goals.

Along with investments in making it safer and easier to travel in key corridors around the region, the Council included a vision for regionwide programs as a key element of the Get Moving 2020 measure. These programs are intended to ensure that benefits from the measure are felt broadly throughout the region and also to build community stability along with transportation investments.

At this work session, Council will continue conversation from the May 26 work session, in which staff presented for Council discussion a draft recommendation for program allocations and eligible investments. This recommendation is closely informed by input from community members, the Transportation Funding Task Force, the Committee on Racial Equity and key stakeholders and partners. Staff are seeking Council guidance on this draft recommendation prior to finalizing it as part of the complete Get Moving 2020 measure investment package.

ACTION REQUESTED

No formal action requested at this work session. Staff seek Council guidance on program allocations as well any changes to eligible investments.

Staff intend to bring a final recommendation for direction at Council's June 16 work session. At the Council's direction, this will be part of the Get Moving 2020 investment package for Council referral consideration in July.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Metro Council has directed that the measure must advance the Regional Transportation Plan, Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, and Climate Smart Strategy; engage diverse partners and community members; and leverage affordable housing and parks and nature investments. The Metro Council approved specific policy outcomes for

the potential transportation measure and appointed a Transportation Funding Task Force in early 2019.

POLICY QUESTIONS

Does the draft staff recommendation for program investments and allocations adequately respond to community feedback and advance Council priorities for the Get Moving 2020 measure?

What changes does the Council direct staff to make in a final regionwide programs recommendation, if any?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

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 will include investments throughout the region, supporting the many ways people travel. The council has directed that this work must place advancing racial equity and addressing climate change at its core. The council has also directed staff to engage a wide range of community members, partners and leaders to identify smart solutions supported by a broad coalition.

As the region emerges from the current crisis, the greater Portland area will continue to grow. People will still be moving here. Children will still need to get to school safely. Workers and students will still need safe, reliable, and affordable transportation choices. Our communities will look for leadership to create jobs and generate the economic activity that will drive our region's recovery.

Transportation investments have often played a key role in putting people back to work and rebuilding our communities after an economic crisis. Reliable, affordable, safe and predictable transportation and transit options are in many ways more critical when family finances are stretched. This measure identifies hundreds of individual projects that are ready to go, so we can put tens of thousands of people back to work building a transportation system to serve greater Portland for decades to come.

That's why Metro is continuing to work with partners, stakeholders and the public to complete the Get Moving transportation funding measure proposal. This work has always been about working together to create a healthy and prosperous region for everyone who lives here. Now more than ever, building a blueprint forward will help all of us when it's time to regather and rebuild.

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. The Task Force reviewed Metro Council direction and policy regarding the measure; identified additional desired outcomes; provided input to Council on priority corridors, regionwide programs and possible revenue mechanisms; and made recommendations for corridor investments. Co-chaired by Commissioners Jessica Vega Pederson and Pam Treece, the Task Force held its 22nd and final meeting on April 15, 2020.

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 a proposed annual investment of \$50 million, these programs would ensure that the measure delivers broad benefits throughout the region. As envisioned, these programs would make possible additional investments in safety, transit and community stability, including creating anti-displacement strategies and affordable housing opportunities in the Get Moving 2020 investment corridors.

In February and March, Metro conducted extensive in-person and online engagement regarding the draft programs throughout the region, hearing from thousands of residents, the Task Force, Metro's Committee on Racial Equity, stakeholder groups and technical practitioners around the region. More than 1,600 people completed an online survey and hundreds more participated in community workshops in each county. Metro also funded several community partner organizations to conduct focused engagement with communities of color and other historically marginalized people. The Council heard reports from this engagement at work sessions on May 12 and 19, 2020.

The regionwide programs would accompany approximately \$4 billion in proposed investments to make travel easier, safer and more affordable in 16 key travel corridors around the greater Portland region. These corridors and investments were identified through extensive Council and Task Force discussions, and engagement with Local Investment Teams and community members throughout 2019 and early 2020.

Is legislation required for Council action? **Legislation will be required for referral.** Council is expected to consider such legislation in mid-July.