

REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY: TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT MEASURE REFINEMENT

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Departments: GAPD, Planning & 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.

In several work session this spring, the Metro Council has held discussions and given direction on Task Force and staff recommendations for project and program investments, revenue mechanisms and implementation structure. As a referral consideration target date approaches, staff seek Council's continued guidance to refine measure investments, oversight and accountability, and implementation.

ACTION REQUESTED

Provide guidance and direction on potential measure refinements to shape a final investment package for Council's consideration.

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

How do proposed refinements advance Council goals and direction for the Get Moving 2020 measure?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

For more than a year, Metro has been working with partners and the community on a collaborative, comprehensive investment plan that makes getting around safer, easier 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 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 travel 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 development for all of the unanimous recommendations and posing additional questions about some corridors. On April 7, acting on Task Force input and staff recommendations, Council directed staff to include further project investments in the Highway 43 corridor as well as planning investments in the 99W, 217 and Highway 43 corridors.

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. 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. The Council provided direction on regionwide program investments at work sessions on May 26 and June 2. Final recommended program descriptions were released during the week of June 8.

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