

## STAFF REPORT

### FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING THE FINDINGS IN THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHWAY JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER STUDY

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## BACKGROUND

The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan identifies the need and a process for completing several jurisdictional transfers in the Metro region for older, state-owned facilities that have lost their statewide function over time to urbanization and now function as urban arterial streets (e.g. 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Portland). Most of these routes have been bypassed by modern, limited access freeways (e.g. I-205) that replace their statewide travel function. In recognition of this transition, the state has adopted policies to promote the jurisdictional transfer of these older routes to city or county ownership. However, future transfers have occurred.

Because of the delay in transferring ownership, most of these roadways have a backlog of pavement maintenance as well as gaps or deficiencies in basic urban pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Funding for near or long-term investments has not been identified by the state or local jurisdictions. Furthermore, there is no agreement in the region on which roads are the highest priorities when it comes to what to transfer, when, and at what cost. For this reason, these transfers will take time to accomplish on a case-by-case basis. However, the 2018 RTP also identified immediate concerns for safety and equity that are driving a more urgent need to accomplish these transfers.

The report included in Exhibit A provides a Policy Framework, Evaluation Methodologies, Findings, Needs and Deficiencies Assessment, and a Cost estimating Methodology. It highlights the key takeaways and provides attachments including the full deliverables for these components as well as for an Inventory of candidate roadways, Equity Considerations and Roadway Classification change recommendations.

A Public Comment Period for the report was held this Fall (9/15-10/22), Notice of the public comment period was provided through Metro News and distributed to an email list of community members and organizations, the Project Steering Committee, Metro's Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Committee and the Joint Policy Committee on Transportation. Metro's Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Committee and the Project Steering Committee

Members of the public and other interested stakeholders were encouraged to review the draft document and comment by letter, phone, "in person" through online Zoom meetings with Metro and ODOT project managers, through an online comment survey.

No comments were received by mail or phone. The project team received seven comment letters by email, two interested parties met with project managers and 40 people participated in the online comment survey. In addition to receiving the comment letters, survey responses, and in-person meetings, the project team also met with county coordinating committees. All comments received, meeting notes and survey results are included within the Public Comment Summary Memorandum in Exhibit B.

Overall, jurisdictional staff and decision-makers who submitted comments are interested in continued dialogue about jurisdictional transfers.

- Levels of support for transferring roadways vary by roadway and jurisdiction.
- There is generally agreement that the roadways the report identifies as promising candidates for jurisdictional transfer need improvements to better meet local needs, uses and priorities, especially safety.

- There is a common concern among jurisdictions regarding the funding that would be needed at the local level for improvements and ongoing maintenance of transferred roadways.

## **ANALYSIS/INFORMATION**

1. **Known Opposition** – No known opposition
2. **Legal Antecedents** – this resolution accepts findings from a study that was called for in the 2018 RTP update as adopted in Ordinance 18-1421 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE 2014 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW AND AMENDING THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PLAN.
3. **Anticipated Effects** – Findings included in Exhibit A will be considered in the 2023 update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
4. **Budget Impacts** – None.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Resolution No.20-5138 accepting the findings in the Regional Framework for Highway Jurisdictional Transfer study.