

# MPAC Worksheet

**Agenda Item Title:** Regional Emergency Transportation Routes (RETRs) Update: Draft Phase 1 Final Report and Resolution No. 21-5160

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## Purpose/Objective

Seek feedback on the Regional Emergency Transportation Routes (RETRs) Draft Phase 1 Final Report that was developed in partnership with the [Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization \(RDPO\)](#) and a multi-disciplinary work group of more than thirty representatives from seventeen agencies across the five-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region.

## Action Requested/Outcome

MPAC review and feedback on the Draft Phase 1 Final Report and Resolution No. 21-5160.

Committee members will be provided with an overview of the project, the updated routes and recommendations for future planning work.

## What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

A partnership between the RDPO and Metro, this project was identified in the [2018 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) implementation chapter (Chapter 8), and recommended by MPAC, as a necessary step to better integrate transportation planning with planning for resiliency, recovery and emergency response.

A critical element of emergency preparedness for the region's hazards includes designation of emergency transportation routes (ETRs). First designated in 1996 by the Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG), the region established its first official network of regional ETRs. The last update occurred in 2006, under the direction of the Regional Emergency Management Technical Committee (REMTEC) of the Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG) – the predecessor to the RDPO.



A partnership between the RDPO and Metro, this project updated the Regional Emergency Transportation Routes (RETRs) for the five-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region, which includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.

Regional ETRs are travel routes that, in the case of a major regional emergency or natural disaster, would be prioritized for rapid damage assessment and debris-clearance. These routes would be used to move resources and materials, such as first responders (e.g., police, fire and emergency medical services), patients, debris, fuel and essential supplies.

These routes are also expected to have a key role in post-disaster recovery efforts.

**[rdpo.net/emergency-transportation-routes](https://rdpo.net/emergency-transportation-routes)**

View the recommended routes using the interactive [online RETR viewer](#).

## OVERVIEW OF PHASE 1 RETR UPDATE

The RDPO and Metro initiated the first phase of a multi-phase update of the RETRs in Spring 2019. A literature review and other research conducted by the Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) at PSU in August 2019 served as a foundation, providing a summary of recent work as well as identifying best practices and considerations for updating the RETRs. A consultant team, hired in fall 2019, provided technical support and facilitated the update with the multi-disciplinary work group to:

- assemble readily available local, regional and state datasets to support the evaluation process;
- develop the draft RETR evaluation framework and process to review and update the routes; and
- update the RETRs and prepare recommendations for future planning work in coordination and consultation with staff representing emergency management, transportation, operations, port, transit and public works disciplines across the 5-county region.

This phase resulted in:

- Multi-disciplinary collaboration of emergency management with transportation planning, engineering and operations, ports, transit and public works stakeholders.
- Enhanced visibility of RETRs and improved understanding of their resilience that informed a regional dialogue regarding resilience and recovery among policymakers, senior leadership and planners.
- A regionally-accepted network that provides adequate connectivity to critical infrastructure and essential facilities, as well as the region's population centers and vulnerable communities.
- A comprehensive regional GIS database and [online RETR viewer](#) established for current and future planning and operations. The data and on-line viewer provide valuable resources to support transportation resilience, recovery and related initiatives in the region.
- A regionally-accepted set of recommendations for follow-on work to support ongoing local, regional and state efforts to improve the region's resilience.

The project incorporates considering and advancing connectivity, resilience and equity outcomes in the designation of RETRs. Additionally, the report provides analysis specific to the updated RETRs using the newly created regional GIS database and recommendations for future planning work.

Engagement of policymakers, planners and other stakeholders was extensive for this RETR update to better integrate transportation planning with planning for resiliency, recovery and emergency response as well as the investments that will be needed to make the region's transportation system more resilient. Section 2 and Appendix B of the draft report summarize project engagement activities.

The draft final report is now under review by various committees and councils affiliated with the RDPO and Metro. A schedule of the review and acceptance process is provided in Attachment 2. An executive summary and the report are provided in Attachments 3 and 4. The Metro Council is scheduled to consider action on Resolution No. 21-5160 in April. The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SW RTC) and RDPO Policy Committee will consider action on similar resolutions in April and May, respectively.

The project website: <https://rdpo.net/emergency-transportation-routes>

### What packet material do you plan to include?

Attachment 1 – Draft Resolution No. 21-5160 (including draft Exhibit A and draft Exhibit B)  
(2/04/2021)

Attachment 2 – 2021 Final Review and Acceptance Process (2/04/2021)

Attachment 3 – Executive Summary (2/04/2021)

Attachment 4 – Draft Final Report (2/04/2021)

Powerpoint presentation