

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 21-5160
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE)	
REGIONAL EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
ROUTES UPDATE PHASE ONE REPORT)	Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
)	Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, our region's infrastructure systems need to be resilient and prepared for multiple natural hazards, which include earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, floods, severe weather and volcanic events, and the increasing impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, emergency management planning will help mitigate the risks these hazards pose to the public health and safety of communities and the region's economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, research and experience demonstrate that climate change and natural hazards have a disproportionate effect on historically marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), people with limited English proficiency, people with low income, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, who typically have fewer resources and more exposure to environmental hazards, and are, therefore, the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects; and

WHEREAS the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) was created by intergovernmental agreement in 2015 as a partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region collaborating to build upon and unify various regional preparedness efforts and increase the region's resilience to disasters; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the RDPO Metro plays an important role in transportation and emergency management planning related to regional functions, such as data and mapping, disaster debris management and emergency transportation route designations to improve disaster response coordination and help reduce loss of life, injury and property damage during disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Emergency Transportation Routes (ETR) Update is a joint planning effort between the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and Metro, exemplifying regional collaboration and coordination to prepare for disasters that affect the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identified the need for an update to the region's designated regional emergency transportation routes to support future planning, policy-making and investment related to regional emergency management, transportation recovery and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, Regional ETRS were first designated within the Metro jurisdictional boundary in 1996 by the Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG) at the recommendation of the Regional Emergency Transportation Route Task Force facilitated by Metro, as priority routes targeted for rapid damage assessment and debris removal during a major regional emergency or disaster and used to transport emergency resources and materials, including first responders (e.g., police, fire and emergency medical services), essential supplies, debris, equipment, patients and personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Regional ETRs were last updated in 2005 and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by local jurisdictions, the Port of Portland and the Oregon and Washington Departments of

Transportation that formalized commitments for assessing and reporting the status and condition of identified emergency transportation routes following an earthquake and coordinating activities under emergency conditions in relation to those routes; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the region has experienced significant growth and demographic changes, and new technology, data and mapping have greatly expanded understanding of current hazard risks in the region, particularly seismic, wildfire, landslide, and flooding risks; and

WHEREAS, the RDPO ETR work group, a multi-disciplinary team of more than 30 local, regional, and state emergency management, transportation planning, engineering, operations and public works staff from 17 agencies within the five counties, supported the Phase 1 planning effort, including development of recommendations for future planning work; and

WHEREAS, the geographic scope of the planning effort was the five-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area, including Clark County in the state of Washington, and Columbia, Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties in the state of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, RDPO and Metro staff coordinated and consulted with cities, counties and agencies throughout the process to address specific needs of each agency or jurisdiction and facilitate collaboration and coordination among the agencies and jurisdictions, including: transportation, emergency management, and public works departments of each of the five counties and the City of Portland, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Oregon Department of Geologic and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), transit providers, port districts, and cities within each of the five counties; and

WHEREAS, updates to the Regional ETRs incorporate changes recommended by the City of Portland, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties and ODOT through recent work that evaluated seismic risks along Statewide Seismic Lifeline Routes (SSLRs) identified in the Oregon Highway Plan; and

WHEREAS, agencies and jurisdictions recommended additional updates to the Regional ETRs and critical infrastructure and essential facilities to be included in the analysis through a series of consultation meetings convened by RDPO and Metro in Fall 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Emergency Transportation Routes Update Report identifies a network of local and state-owned route segments in the region that should be designated as Regional ETRs, and summarizes key findings about the resilience and connectivity of these routes and recommendations for future planning work, including a second planning phase to tier and operationalize the routes; and

WHEREAS, the analysis found many of the Regional ETRs and their bridges are vulnerable to significant seismic and other hazard risks, such as flooding, landslides and liquefaction; and

WHEREAS, the analysis found the network of Regional ETRs provide adequate connectivity and access to the SSLRs as well as the region's population centers, isolated populations, areas with high concentrations of vulnerable populations, and critical infrastructure and essential facilities of state and regional importance; and

WHEREAS, the report was developed in collaboration with the ETR work group and reflects input from regional committees and elected bodies, such as the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC), the County Coordinating Committees, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SW RTC), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), the

Metro Council, and the RDPO Steering and Policy Committees and work groups, including the RDPO emergency management work group; and

WHEREAS, by accepting the report and updated routes, the Metro Council hereby recognizes all routes designated in the report are of state and regional importance during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, by accepting the report and updated routes, the Metro Council further recognizes the value in using the findings and recommendations in this report to inform the recommended second phase of work and ongoing local, regional and state efforts to improve the region's resilience and to develop funding strategies to make these routes more resilient; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Metro Council hereby accepts:
 - a. the updated Regional ETRs for the metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary, as shown in the attached Exhibit A;
 - b. the updated Regional ETRs for the five-county Portland-Vancouver region, as shown in the attached Exhibit B; and
 - c. the findings and recommendations in the Regional Emergency Transportation Routes Update Phase 1 Report, as shown in the attached Exhibit C.
2. The Metro Council hereby directs staff to use the updated Regional ETR maps and report to inform planning, policy and investment priorities in the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan update and ongoing efforts to improve the region's resilience and to develop funding strategies to make these routes more resilient.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 29th day of April, 2021.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney