

## EMERGING GROWTH TRENDS: DRAFT WORK PROGRAM

---

Date: May 12, 2021  
Department: Planning and Development  
Meeting Date: June 1, 2020

Prepared by: Ted Reid,  
[ted.reid@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:ted.reid@oregonmetro.gov)  
Presenters: Elissa Gertler and Ted Reid  
Length: 45 minutes

---

### ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro is responsible for the region's long range land use and transportation plans and policies. The pandemic has accelerated a number of trends in how and where people live, work, shop, and travel. Understanding these trends is crucial to ensuring Metro's long-range land use and transportation plans and policies are reflective of and responsive to how our community is growing and changing.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is seeking Council input on a draft work program.

### IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Emerging Growth Trends work will inform future policy decisions by the Metro Council and local governments. This work is intended to provide a basis for future decision making including the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan, the 2024 Urban Growth Management decision, and an eventual update of the 2040 Growth Concept and its supporting policies and programs.

### POLICY QUESTION(S)

- What trends would the Council like to understand better before making decisions on the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and 2024 Growth Management Decision?
- Which stakeholders would the Council like to make sure staff engages in this work?

### POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Provide feedback to staff on the draft work program. Council feedback will help guide scope refinement and stakeholder engagement.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Guided by the Metro Council's Strategic Framework, the Emerging Growth Trends work will look at issues related to housing, jobs, transportation, environment, and community, through the lenses of shared prosperity, racial justice, climate justice and resiliency. The intent of this work is not to seek or provide definitive answers to the questions that our communities face, but rather to bring together analytical information and lived experience

in order to better understand how Metro's plans and policies can address key community issues and concerns.

Our society has shifted significantly over the past year as a result of the global pandemic, racial injustice, economic crisis, and climate-induced natural disasters. Previous urban planning assumptions about where people would live and work, how people would move around, or who would have access to wealth and opportunity have been disrupted, disproven, or dismantled. The 2040 Growth Concept has provided a basis to describe shared values and vision for what kind of community we want our region to be over time. The Emerging Growth Trends work will set the stage for the larger policy and community discussions about what shared values will guide our community vision going forward.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 2040 Growth Concept describes an urban community tightly connected with nature, surrounded by the farms and forests that make Oregon a special place. Decades ago, our state developed a system to preserve this valuable land, and in the 1990's our region developed a plan for growth that protected nature by concentrating development in town centers, transit corridors, employment areas, and neighborhoods. Our region has been well known for decades as a place where people can walk, bike, or take transit to get around, live in vibrant neighborhoods where they can meet their basic needs without needing a car, and enjoy access to nature both within and just beyond the city. Our livability has also served as an economic advantage for the region, attracting industries and companies that valued the people and the environment of Greater Metropolitan Portland.

Yet, it is clear that while successful in many ways, this approach has also caused harm to our communities. There are significant disparities in wages, housing cost burdens, transportation access, public safety and more throughout our community. Black, Indigenous and People of Color have suffered discrimination, displacement, and disenfranchisement as a result of our region's land use and transportation plans and policies, and it is now our responsibility to recognize that our work must strive to undo previous and prevent further harm. It is time to revisit the 2040 Growth Concept, to refresh the shared values of what kind of community we want to be in the future, and to recognize the things that must be repaired or replaced with new anti-racist approaches, policies, plans, and investments.

But the past year has made the concept of a 50 year plan seem very distant. The upheaval created by the pandemic has created an urgent need to respond to the changes in how we all live, work, and travel, and how we work to end racism in our country. Trends such as e-commerce and remote work have accelerated. Changes to regulations such as allowing more missing middle housing in neighborhoods (HB 2001) present new opportunities for what gets built in our communities, and who is served by this new development.

The proposed Emerging Growth Trends work program is intended as a first step to building a shared understanding of the changes our region must address, and considering

which regional policies, plans, or investments might need to change to respond to these emerging trends.

This work is intended to inform the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan, the 2024 Urban Growth Management decision and an eventual “refresh” of the region’s long range plan, the 2040 Growth Concept.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Draft work program

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? Work program and PowerPoint