



Metro



Oregon
Department
of Transportation

Metro/ODOT Regional Mobility Policy Update

Project purpose and objectives

(as identified in work plan approved by JPACT and the Metro Council in 2019)

July 24, 2020

Project purpose

The purpose of this project is to:

- Update the regional transportation policy on how the Portland area defines and measures mobility for people and goods to better align how performance and adequacy of the transportation system is measured with broader local, regional and state goals and policies.
- Recommend amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan and Policy 1F of the Oregon Highway Plan (Table 7 and related policies for the state-owned facilities in the Portland metropolitan planning area boundary).

The updated policy will be considered for approval by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council as an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as part of the next RTP update (due in 2023). The updated policy for state owned facilities will be considered for approval by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) as an amendment to Policy 1F of the Oregon Highway Plan.

The updated policy will be applied within the Portland area metropolitan planning area boundary and guide the development of regional and local transportation system plans and the evaluation of the potential impacts of plan amendments and zoning changes on the transportation system as required by Section 0060 of the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR). In addition, the updated policy will provide a foundation for recommending future implementation actions needed to align local, regional and state codes, standards, guidelines and best practices with the new policy, particularly as it relates to mitigating development impacts and managing, operating and designing roads.

Project objectives

The 2018 RTP is built around four key priorities of advancing equity, mitigating climate change, improving safety and managing congestion. The plan recognizes that our growing and changing region needs an updated mobility policy to better align how we measure the performance and adequacy of the transportation system for both people and goods. The comprehensive set of shared regional values, goals and related desired outcomes identified in the 2018 RTP and 2040 Growth Concept, as well as local and state goals will provide overall guidance to this work.

The following project objectives will direct the development of the updated mobility policy that meets these broad desired outcomes for the Portland metropolitan region.

The project will amend the RTP and Policy 1F of the OHP to:

1. Advance the region's desired outcomes and local, regional and state efforts to implement the 2040 Growth Concept and 2018 RTP policy goals for advancing equity, mitigating climate change, improving safety and managing congestion.
2. Support implementation of the region's Climate Smart Strategy, the Statewide Transportation Strategy for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and related policies.

3. Provide a clear policy basis for management of and investment in the throughway¹ and arterial system to better manage growing motor vehicle congestion in the region in order to maintain interstate and statewide mobility on the throughway system while providing for intra-regional mobility and access by transit, freight and other modes of travel on the arterial roadway system and other modal networks.
4. Develop a holistic alternative mobility policy and associated measures, targets, and methods for the Portland region that focuses on system completeness for all modes and system and demand management activities to serve planned land uses. The updated policy will:
 - a. Clearly and transparently define and communicate mobility expectations for multiple modes, users and time periods, and provide clear targets for local, regional and state decision-making.
 - b. Provide mobility equitably and help eliminate disparities historically marginalized communities² face in meeting their travel needs.
 - c. Address all modes of transportation in the context of planned land uses.
 - d. Be innovative and advance state of the art practices related to measuring multimodal mobility.
 - e. Use transportation system and demand management to support meeting mobility needs.
 - f. Help decision-makers make decisions that advance multiple policy objectives.
 - g. Address the diverse mobility needs of both people and goods movement.
 - h. Balance mobility objectives with other adopted state, regional and community policy objectives, especially policy objectives for land use, affordable housing, safety, equity, climate change and economic prosperity.³
 - i. Distinguish between throughway and arterial performance and take into account both state and regional functional classifications for all modes and planned land uses.
 - j. Evaluate system completeness and facility performance for all modes to serve planned land uses as well as potential financial, environmental, greenhouse gas and community impacts of the policy, including impacts of the policy on traditionally underserved communities and public health.
 - k. Recognize that mobility into and through the Portland region affects both residents across the region and users across the state, from freight and economic perspectives, as well as access to health care, universities, entertainment and other destinations of regional and statewide importance.
 - l. Be financially achievable.
 - m. Be broadly understood and supported by federal, state, regional and local governments, practitioners and other stakeholders and decision-makers, including JPACT, the Metro Council and the Oregon Transportation Commission.
 - n. Be legally defensible for implementing jurisdictions.
 - o. Be applicable and useful at the system plan, mobility corridor and plan amendment scales.

¹ Throughways are designated in the 2018 RTP and generally correspond to Expressways designated in the OHP.

² Historically marginalized communities are defined as people of color, people who do not speak English well, low income people, youth, older adults and people living with disabilities.

³ Including the Oregon Transportation Plan, state modal and topic plans including OHP Policy 1G (Major Improvements), Oregon Transportation Planning Rule, Metro 2040 Growth Concept, Metro Regional Transportation Plan, Metro Regional Transportation Functional Plan and the Metro Congestion Management Process.

Project requirements and considerations

The project will address these requirements and considerations:

1. Comply with federal, state and regional planning and public involvement requirements, including Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals, ORS 197.180, the process set forth in OHP Policy 1F3 and associated Operational Notice PB-02.
2. Consider implications for development review and project design.
3. Consider implications for the region's federally-mandated [congestion management process](#) and related performance-based planning and monitoring activities.
4. Coordinate with and support other relevant state and regional initiatives, including planned [updates to the Oregon Transportation Plan and Oregon Highway Plan](#), the ODOT Region 1 Congestion Bottleneck and Operations Study II (CBOS II), the [ODOT I-205 Tolling Project](#), the [ODOT I-5 Tolling Project](#), [Metro Regional Congestion Pricing Study](#), the Metro [Regional Transportation System Management and Operations \(TSMO\) Strategy](#) update and the [Metro jurisdictional transfer framework](#) effort.
5. Document data, tools and methodologies for measuring mobility.
6. Provide guidance to jurisdictions on how to balance multiple policy objectives and document adequacy, i.e. consistency with the RTP and OHP, in both transportation system plans (TSPs) and plan amendments, when there are multiple measures and targets in place.
7. Recommend considerations for future local, regional and state actions outside the scope of this project to implement the new policy and to reconcile differences between the new system plan and plan amendment measures and targets and those used in development review and project design.