

COVID 19 RELIEF FUNDING

Date: July 2, 2021
Department: Planning & Development
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Presenters: Margi Bradway, Ted Leybold
Length: 60 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) has provided approximately \$12.16 million in transportation funding to Metro to address the impacts of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Metro staff is seeking Council feedback on the spending of these funds.

ACTION REQUESTED

No action today. Council will be asked to include proposed spending in future requested Council budget actions as either amendments to the FY 2022 budget or in adoption of future fiscal year budgets. Council may also be requested to affirm that transportation planning activities included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or transportation projects included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) utilizing these funds are consistent with federal regulations.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The CRRSAA funds are proposed to fund activities that will advance the policy outcomes adopted by Council in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to work with Council to develop new implementation strategies for consideration as a part of the 2023 RTP process.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Proposed spending seeks to meet existing MPO commitments and advance the RTP policy objectives set forth by Council: improve safety, reduce climate emissions, advance equity, and provide congestion relief. Will the proposed investments of CRRSAA funds prepare Metro to advance the policy outcomes of the RTP?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Proposed spending options of CRRSAA funds are included in Attachment A. The attachment summarizes the financial implications and anticipated effects of the spending.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommended spending is included in Attachment A.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This element of CRRSAA provides transportation funds to metropolitan areas for COVID-19 impact relief. Metro staff is proposing a spending plan on activities and projects that advance implementation of the region's priority transportation investment policies as defined in the RTP. The RTP and its associated topical and modal plans applies Metro's Strategic Plan, racial equity goals, climate action goals and other policy direction to the region's transportation system.

In addition to significant capital investments in the transportation system, the proposal also addresses losses to regional planning capacity due to budget cutbacks experienced during the pandemic. This will allow Metro to meet federal planning obligations and support implementation of the region's desired policy outcomes as the region continues to recover, invest and develop the transportation system moving forward. This proposal will support these efforts for approximately three years. See Attachment A for a full description of the proposal's budget impacts.

BACKGROUND

Federal CRRSAA funding is provided to State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), with a required proportion of funds sub-allocated directly to large metropolitan areas to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds have a wide range of eligible projects and activities. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) facilitated the use of a provision in the Act that allowed for a direct allocation of funds to the state, with a pass-through to the large Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), rather than having to utilize the typical reimbursement process for each individually funded project or planning activity. Approximately \$12.16 million will be provided to Metro as the Portland metropolitan area MPO via ODOT through the use of this provision.

Attachment A summarizes the Metro staff proposal on how these funds will be spent on transportation related activities and projects in the region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A is a Memorandum from Acting Planning & Development Director Margi Bradway to Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal summarizing the proposed spending of CRRSAA funding.

[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? Attachment A – Memo from Margi Bradway, RE: Proposal on allocation of CRRSAA Funds