

Memo



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Date: October 7, 2021
To: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and interested parties
From: Kim Ellis, Principal Transportation Planner
Subject: I-205 Toll Project (Preliminary Engineering Phase): Requested Amendment to the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to introduce an amendment to the [2018 Regional Transportation Plan](#) (RTP) requested by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The requested amendment will:

- add the preliminary engineering phase for the [I-205 Toll Project](#) to the RTP financially constrained project list, and
- clarify the financial connection of the I-205 Toll Project to the I-205 Improvement Project in Chapter 8 of the RTP.

This memo also provides the timeline for public review and input prior to consideration by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council in early 2022. Approval of the amendment will allow the I-205 Toll Project to continue to move forward in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process that is underway. If approved, the 2018 RTP financially constrained project list amendment allows a separate amendment to the [2021-2024 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program](#) (MTIP) to move forward for consideration by JPACT and the Metro Council to program funding for the preliminary engineering phase for the I-205 Toll Project.

BACKGROUND

The RTP is a long-range transportation plan that guides planning and investments for all forms of travel – motor vehicle, transit, bicycle and walking – and the movement of goods and freight throughout the Portland metropolitan region. The plan was last updated in 2018. The next update is due by Dec. 2023.

Amendments to the RTP are considered in between scheduled updates when a sponsoring agency requests changes to the funding, phasing, mode, function or general location of a project in the plan. There are several general sources for RTP amendment requests, including:

- (1) Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) requests that require an amendment to the RTP for specific projects or the phasing of existing projects due to a funding decision by the Oregon State Legislature or other action by the Oregon Transportation Commission;
- (2) city or county requests involving transportation projects in local transportation system plans (TSPs), area plans, concept plans or studies adopted through a public process;

- (3) transit agency requests to align transit plans or projects adopted through a public process and the Regional Transportation Plan; and
- (4) amendments resulting from a NEPA review process, corridor refinement planning as defined in the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule (TPR), or other studies that involve additions or deletions to the RTP financially constrained project list or a significant change in the mode, function or general location of a project on the RTP financially constrained project list.

As described in [Chapter 8](#) (Section 8.4) of the RTP, such amendments require adoption by the JPACT and the Metro Council by Ordinance, accompanied by findings that demonstrate consistency with:

- regional goals, objectives and policies;
- statewide planning goals;
- federal fiscal constraint requirements; and
- Metro's adopted Public Engagement Guide and RTP amendment procedures.

I-205 TOLL PROJECT RTP AMENDMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The requested amendment and supporting information submitted by ODOT are provided in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**, respectively. The expectation is that amendments to the RTP follow the same adoption process as RTP updates. **Attachment 3** provides a more detailed schedule of the process and timeline for considering the requested RTP amendment. Key dates and milestones include:

- **Oct. 1 to Nov. 15, 2021** – A 45-day public comment period is underway. Comments may be submitted through an online comment form, email, mail and phone. The Metro Council will hold a public hearing on Nov. 4. Information is posted on Metro's website: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/public-notice-opportunity-comment-i-205-toll-project-amendment-regional-transportation-plan>
- **Fall 2021** – Metro staff will document and ODOT staff will respond to all substantive public comments received. This information will be provided to TPAC, the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), JPACT and the Metro Council for discussion and consideration prior to requesting final recommendations and action.
- **Early 2022** – Request final action by JPACT and the Metro Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Questions about ODOT's requested amendment? Contact Mandy Putney, ODOT Urban Mobility Office Strategic Initiatives Director, at Mandy.Putney@odot.state.or.us.
- Questions about the RTP amendment process? Contact Kim Ellis, Metro principal transportation planner, at kim.ellis@oregonmetro.gov.
- Questions about the public comment period? Contact Molly Cooney-Mesker, Metro Public Engagement Specialist, at Molly.Cooney-Mesker@oregonmetro.gov.