

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MTIP) AMENDMENT EVALUATION PROPOSAL

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Department: Planning, Development &
Research
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Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) provides guidance for how proposed near-term transportation investment decisions are made and how they implement the priority policy outcomes defined in the long-term Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Metro Council is requested to adopt a new MTIP every three years and is also requested to manage changes through amendments to the MTIP each month. This work session item is to follow up on direction Metro Council provided at its September 7, 2021 work session to develop additional performance evaluation of significant MTIP amendments relative to the adopted policies on transportation investment priorities as defined in the RTP.

ACTION REQUESTED

Discuss, modify and affirm with Metro staff the performance evaluation procedures to be used for proposed MTIP amendments.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The MTIP aims to carry out regional transportation policy direction set forth in the RTP. In addition to adequately maintaining the transportation system, investments are to improve outcomes toward desired performance for the following priorities:

- **Safety:** toward the Region's Vision Zero target for fatal and serious injury crashes
- **Climate:** implementing the Region's Climate Smart Strategy
- **Equity:** eliminating inequities of the transportation system for people of color and with low income
- **Congestion relief:** implementing the Region's Congestion Management Process

When it comes to considering projects being amended in the MTIP, Metro staff has heard from Council that they want:

- Additional information on larger, motor vehicle capacity projects regarding their impacts on the four RTP priority outcomes for transportation investments
- Improved communication between Metro Council and Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) on how to meet the four desired outcomes

- A short term and long-term strategy for how to evaluate and update the priority outcomes at both the system and project levels

POLICY QUESTION(S)

No policy questions are proposed. Metro staff seeks to discuss and confirm the proposed MTIP amendment performance evaluation procedures accurately reflects the direction provided by Metro Council at its September 7, 2021 work session.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

The proposed evaluation performance procedures were drafted to better inform Council's consideration of MTIP amendments relative to implementation of policy on investment priorities as defined in the RTP. For the immediate, short-term procedures proposed, Metro staff seeks discussion and affirmation the proposed procedures will help ensure implementation of existing regional transportation policy when MTIP amendments are proposed.

During the 2023 RTP update process, Metro Council will provide direction to update policies on transportation investment priorities. Policy options for Council to consider will be provided as a part of that process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Affirm that the performance evaluation procedures (Attachment 1) address Metro Council direction on additional information desired for consideration of proposed MTIP amendments.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The MTIP is both a process and a project and fund programming document to help administer how proposed near-term transportation investment decisions consider and help implement the priority policy outcomes defined in the long-term regional transportation plan. Metro Council participated in the development of the current RTP that utilized Metro equity goals and climate action goals and integrated them into regional transportation policy. Council will work through the next two years to update those policies during the development of the 2023 RTP.

To help inform Council consideration of proposed MTIP amendments, Metro Council requested staff develop updated procedures for providing additional information regarding expected impacts to the RTP's priority investment policy objectives. While the MTIP is an administrative tool rather than a means of adopting policy, the MTIP is required to be consistent with investment priority policies of the RTP. The additional performance analysis proposed should help inform and support Metro Council action on proposed project amendments on the consistency of the MTIP with the priority investment policies of the RTP.

BACKGROUND

The MTIP is a federally required process that encourages the cooperative development, evaluation, and adoption of the near-term investments in regional transportation. Its purpose is to promote communication and collaboration by agencies that allocate transportation funds, promote consideration of transportation plans and policies as a part of funding allocation processes, and to ensure fiscal accountability for agencies using federal transportation funds on projects.

The MTIP includes documenting how transportation projects prioritized for funding advance the Portland metropolitan region's shared goals and comply with federal regulations – such as fiscal constraint, air quality impacts, and public involvement. The MTIP outlines the implementation schedule of federally funded transportation projects in the region for the next four years and helps to manage the delivery of transportation projects. The MTIP exists as a financial planning and project delivery tool for the metropolitan region. As a tool, the MTIP assists in ensuring the region does not overspend and tracks the scheduled delivery of transportation projects.

Metro Council's participation in this process is framed by its role as the policy board of the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), a role it shares with JPACT. Federal regulations require the MPO policy board to adopt each MTIP and approve subsequent amendments to the MTIP.

Council most recently approved the 2021-24 MTIP, which is currently active, and has approved subsequent amendments to the current MTIP. Work has also begun on the development of the 2024-27 MTIP. Staff has provided comments to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on the development of its funding allocation processes based on the Council adopted policy priorities and Council considered program direction for the allocation of Regional Flexible Funding Administration (RFFA) for 2025-27 at its September 9, 2021 meeting.

Staff support to the Council for the MTIP process has been guided by the 2021-24 Policy (Program Direction) Report. In addition to following federal regulations, encouraging cooperation in leveraging discretionary funding, and implementing a regional funding strategy, it emphasizes implementation of the RTP investment priority outcomes described above.

Currently the process for analysis and consideration of a new MTIP is for staff to conduct a performance assessment on the package of proposed new projects to evaluate their expected impact on the regional performance targets for the priority outcomes. Based on this assessment, staff may also make recommendations to funding agencies regarding implementation of the proposed projects or for consideration during their next funding allocation process. For individual project amendments to the current MTIP, current practice is to ensure the project is included as a part of the RTP financially constrained list (which is also analyzed for performance against the regional performance targets) and to describe which priority outcomes the project will advance.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Memo to Metro Council regarding new procedures for MTIP Amendments

[For work session:]

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