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**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**  
**7:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting:**

<https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/j/84692175566?pwd=VXVnWFowd0xzTmdwSTBNT0JWbFhKQT09>

Telephone option: 1 (346) 248-7799

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**Agenda**

**7:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions**

**7:35 a.m. JPACT ([JPACT Materials](#))**

- **Regional Transportation Plan Process and Updates**  
*Presenting: Clackamas TPAC Team*
- **TPAC Update**

**8:15 a.m. MPAC**

- **MPAC Debrief and Updates**  
*Reporting: MPAC Members*

<b>Attachments:</b>	JPACT and MPAC Work Programs	Page 02
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# 2023 JPACT Work Program

*As of 9/12/2023*

*Items in italics are tentative*

<p><b>September 21, 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better Bus update (Kelly Betteridge, 10 min)</li><li>• 2023 Regional Transportation Plan: Overview of Public Comment, Key Topics to Address and Next Steps for Finalizing the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy for Adoption (Kim Ellis (she/her), Metro)</li></ul>	<p><b>October 19, 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>OTC Letter (action) (Ted Leybold, 10 min)</i></li><li>• <i>2023 RTP ordinance introduction (Kim Ellis)</i></li><li>• <i>HCT Plan resolution introduction (Ally Holmqvist)</i></li><li>• 82<sup>nd</sup> avenue transit plan (Elizabeth M'ros-Ohara)</li></ul>
<p><b>November 16, 2023</b> - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023 RTP (<b>action</b>)</li><li>• High-Capacity Transit Plan (<b>action</b>)</li></ul>	<p><b>December 14, 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Safety Update (Lake McTighe (she/they), Metro)</i></li><li>• WMIS Update</li><li>• Sunrise corridor visioning project update</li><li>• I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update (IBR): SDEIS</li></ul>

## **2023 MPAC Work Program**

**As of 6/15/2023**

*Items in italics are tentative*

<p><b><u>May 24, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPAC Consideration of MTAC Nominees (consent)</li> <li>• <i>Update on Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (Ted Reid, Metro, DLCD staff; 40 min)</i></li> <li>• High Capacity Transit: Draft Strategy Report (Ally Holmqvist (she/her), Metro; 45 min)</li> <li>• 2023 RTP: Project List Input and Draft System Analysis (Kim Ellis (she/her), Metro; 40 min)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>June 28, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPAC Consideration of MTAC Nominees (consent)</li> <li>• Community place making Grants (Dana Lucero, Metro; 30 min)</li> <li>• Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Program Strategic and Work Plan Update (Andrea Pastor, Metro; 30 min)</li> <li>• Urban Growth Management discussion: Middle Housing Potential (Ted Reid (he/him), Metro and ECONorthwest Staff; 60 min)</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>July 26, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Update</li> <li>• Urban Growth Management discussion: Long-term Role of Housing Production in Housing Affordability (filtering); Gentrification and Displacement Trends (Ted Reid (he/him), Metro and ECONorthwest staff; 60 min)</li> <li>• 2023 RTP Discussion (Kim Ellis (she/her), Metro)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>August 23, 2023</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>September 27, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Urban Growth Management discussion: Office to Residential Conversion Potential (Ted Reid (he/him), Metro and ECONorthwest staff; 60 min)</i></li> <li>• C2P2 Update (Sebrina Owen-Wilson, she/her)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>October 25, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Urban Growth Management discussion: Update on Draft Buildable Land Inventory (Ted Reid (he/him), Metro and ECONorthwest staff; 60 min)</i></li> <li>• <i>MPAC Recommendation on Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (Kim Ellis</i></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freight Commodity Study (Tim Collins, Metro)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><i>(she/her), Metro, Eliot Rose (he/him), Metro; 30 min)</i></p>
<p><b><u>November 08, 2022</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Urban Growth Management discussion: Economic and Demographic Outlook (Ted Reid (he/him), Metro and ECONorthwest staff; 60 min)</i></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>December 13, 2022</u></b></p>

# Memo

Date: September 7, 2023  
To: Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and interested parties  
From: Kim Ellis, AICP, RTP Project Manager  
Subject: 2023 Regional Transportation Plan: Draft Public Comment Report and Overview of Key Concerns Raised for Further Policy Discussion

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## PURPOSE

This memo provides a draft public comment report (and appendices), a summary of key concerns identified for more in-depth policy discussion, and the schedule for finalizing the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2023 High Capacity Transit (HCT) Strategy for consideration by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council in November. A supplemental memo of draft Metro staff recommendations that respond to public comments received and do not warrant in-depth discussion will be sent on Tuesday, September 12.

## ACTION REQUESTED

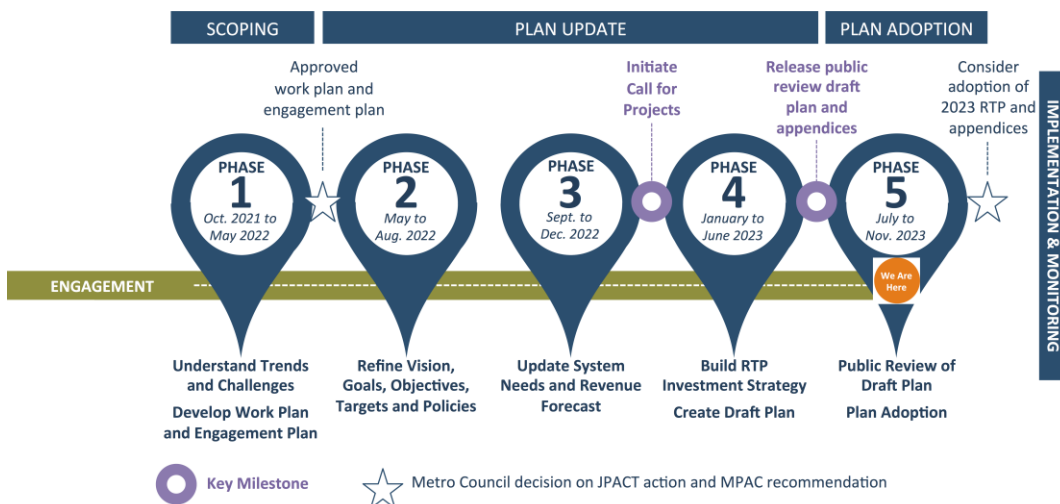
The September 13 workshop provides an opportunity for TPAC members to begin discussion of draft Metro staff recommended actions to respond to public comments on the RTP and HCT Strategy. Initial TPAC feedback on the draft Metro staff recommendations as well as the key concerns identified for JPACT discussion is requested.

## BACKGROUND

The greater Portland region’s economic prosperity and quality of life depend on a transportation system that provides every person and business in the region with equitable access to safe, reliable, climate-friendly and affordable travel options. Since Fall 2021, the Metro Council and staff have extensively engaged with policymakers, jurisdictional staff, federally recognized tribes, transportation agencies, community-based organizations and business groups, businesses, and members of the public to update the region’s vision, goals and policies for the transportation system and understand the region’s transportation trends, needs and priorities for investment.

Shown in **Figure 1**, the region is in the final adoption phase for the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy.

**Figure 1. Timeline**



A schedule of remaining discussions and actions is provided in **Attachment 1**.

### OVERVIEW OF FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A final 45-day public comment period was held from Monday, July 10 to Friday, August 25, 2023. The public comment period built on the significant engagement and feedback received throughout the update to the RTP.<sup>1</sup> Engagement activities conducted during the comment period included:

- **Notifications and notices** – Public notices of the comment period were provided to local neighborhood involvement and community outreach offices and community planning organizations in Washington County. Notices were published in Portland Tribune, Clackamas Review, Hillsboro News Times, Forest Grove News Times, Valley Times News, Beaverton Valley Times, El Latino de Hoy, The Asian Reporter and on the Metro website. Notifications were sent to the RTP interested persons list (nearly 2,772 people) in addition to Metro’s four regional advisory committees and their respective interested parties. Partner agencies and community and business organizations engaged throughout the RTP update posted notifications of the comment period through E-newsletters, social media and other methods to inform their members and interested parties of the comment opportunity.
- **On-line survey and on-line comment form** – An on-line survey, an interactive map and interactive project list, and public review drafts of the 2023 RTP, project lists, appendices and High Capacity Transit Strategy were posted on the 2023 RTP web page at [www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp). Members of the public, regional advisory committees, partner agencies and other interested parties were invited to comment on the draft materials. More than 660 people responded to the on-line survey and more than 250 people and agencies submitted more than 300 comments through an online comment forum. The survey results and comments submitted through the on-line comment form are included in the draft public comment report.
- **Letters and emails** – The public was invited to submit letters and emails. Metro received more than 50 emails and 40 letters from community members, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, business associations, public agencies and elected officials. The emails and letters are included in the draft public comment report.
- **Public hearing** – The Metro Council held a public hearing on July 27, 2023. Thirteen community members testified at the hearing. The closed caption transcript of hearing testimony is included in the draft public comment report.
- **Consultation** – Metro staff invited federally-recognized Tribes and several federal, state and local resource, wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies to consult on the public review draft RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy in accordance with [23 CFR 450.316\(b\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-B/section-23.450-316(b)) and [23 CFR 450.324\(f\)\(10\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-B/section-23.450-324(f)(10)). Metro convened 20 participants in two separate consultation meetings on August 17 and 22. Summaries of the consultation meetings are included in the draft public comment report.
- **Legislative hearings** – The Metro Council is scheduled to hold a legislative hearing on the RTP on September 28, 2023. Comments on the HCT Strategy may also be provided at the hearing. A final hearing and Metro Council action on the RTP and HCT Strategy is scheduled for November 30, 2023.

Metro staff have prepared a *working draft* Public Comment Report and Appendices that summarizes key themes and includes the online survey results, online feedback and copies of all emails, letters, and transcriptions of voicemails received during the formal comment period as well as consultation meeting summaries and transcriptions of verbal testimony provided during the public hearing. Additional analysis will be added as the report is finalized.

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<sup>1</sup> Summary reports of engagement activities conducted to date can be found on the project website at: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/2023-regional-transportation-plan/engagement>

The draft public comment report is provided in **Attachment 2**. Appendices to the draft public comment report are provided in **Attachment 3**.

### **NEXT STEPS FOR RESPONDING TO PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

In addition, Metro staff are drafting recommended actions to respond to comments received and identified key concerns that warrant more in-depth discussion by TPAC and MTAC on September 13 and September 20, respectively, and during subsequent meetings. The recommended actions will include amendments to the public review draft RTP and HCT Strategy, recommendations for no change with an explanation as to why no change is recommended, and recommendations for future work.

Draft Metro staff recommendations will be brought forward for consideration in two parts:

- 1. Summary of Comments Received and Recommended Actions Identified for Further Discussion – aka Discussion Items for Consideration** – These Metro staff recommendations, and the public comments they respond to, raise important policy considerations that warrant further policy discussion by MPAC, JPACT and the Metro Council. TPAC and MTAC will begin discussion of these items at their September 13 and September 20 meetings. An overview of these topics will be provided to MPAC, JPACT and Metro Council at their September meetings. **The discussion items are summarized in Attachment 4.** Potential recommended actions will be brought forward for discussion at the October and November meetings.
- 2. Summary of Comments Received and Recommended Actions for Consideration on a “consent basis” – aka Consent Items for Consideration** – These Metro staff recommendations address technical edits, fine-tuning, clarifications and substantive comments identified through the public review process for consideration on a “consent basis” without further discussion. **Draft recommendations on the consent items will be sent in a supplemental memo on September 12. TPAC members may request discussion of any of these consent items at the September 13 workshop or October 1 meeting.** MTAC members may request discussion of any of these consent items at the September 20 or October 18 meeting. MPAC, JPACT and Metro Council will be requested to take action on these recommendations without discussion as part of their respective final action. However, members may request discussion of individual consent items prior to or as part of their final action.

The draft Metro staff recommendations will become formalized as Exhibit C to Ordinance No. 23-1496 for further consideration at the October 6 TPAC meeting and October 18 MTAC meeting. MTAC will be asked to make a recommendation to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) on adoption of the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy at the October 18 meeting. TPAC will be requested to make a final recommendation to the JPACT on adoption of the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy at the November 3 TPAC meeting; at that time, the Metro staff recommendation becomes a TPAC recommendation to JPACT.

In September, MPAC and JPACT will receive an update on the process, public comments received and topics recommended for policy discussion. JPACT discussion of these topics will continue at the October 19 meeting. MPAC will be asked to make their respective recommendations to the Metro Council on October 25. JPACT will consider TPAC’s recommendation on November 16. The Metro Council is scheduled to consider MPAC and JPACT’s recommendations on November 30, before the current RTP expires on Dec. 6, 2023.

/Attachments

1. Schedule of Key Dates for Finalizing the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy for Adoption (8/29/23)
2. Working Draft Public Comment Report (9/7/23)
3. Draft Appendices to the Draft Public Comment Report (9/6/23)
4. Summary of Proposed Discussion Topics on Key Concerns with 2023 RTP (9/7/23)

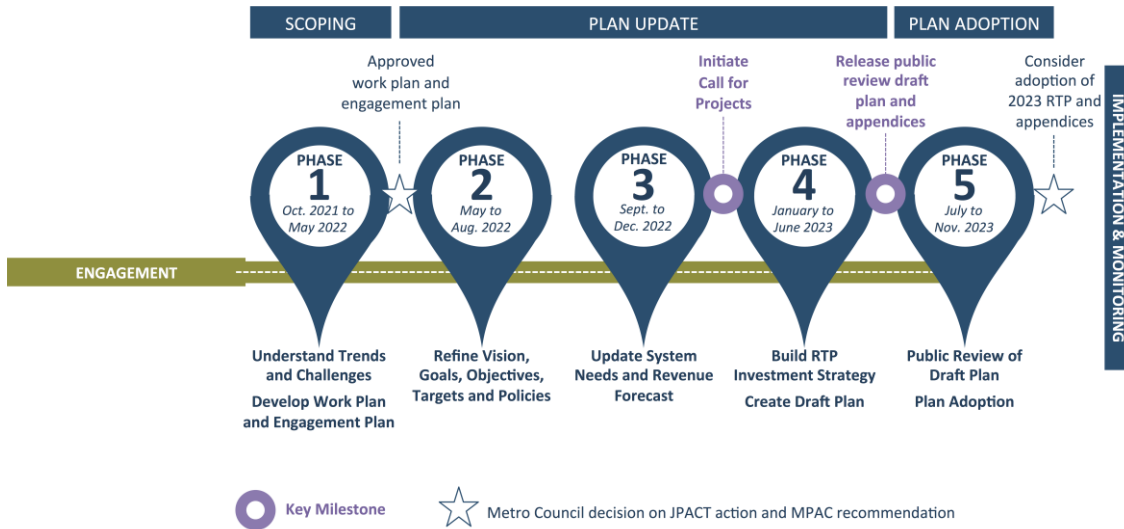


# 2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

## Key Dates for Finalizing the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy for Adoption

September to November 2023

Dates are subject to change.



Note: Under Federal law, the current Regional Transportation Plan expires on Dec. 6, 2023.

September	9/1	TPAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Overview of draft adoption legislation and update on draft Metro staff recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>
	9/12	Metro Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Process update and feedback on draft RTP policies and implementation chapter (Ch. 8)</li> </ul>
	9/13	TPAC Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Discuss draft Metro staff recommended actions in response to public comments received</li> <li>Review policy topics for JPACT discussion</li> </ul>
	9/20	MTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Draft adoption legislation</li> <li>Discuss draft Metro staff recommended actions in response to public comments received</li> <li>Review policy topics for MPAC discussion</li> </ul>
	9/21	JPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Overview of adoption package (Ordinance, Resolution &amp; Exhibits), public comments received and policy topics identified for JPACT discussion</li> <li>Feedback on draft Ch.8 (Implementation)</li> </ul>
	9/27	MPAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Overview of adoption package (Ordinance, Resolution &amp; Exhibits), public comments received and policy topics identified for MPAC discussion</li> <li>Feedback on draft Ch.8 (Implementation)</li> </ul>



	9/28	Metro Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public hearing (first evidentiary hearing/first read)</b> on Ordinance 23-1496</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	10/6	TPAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DISCUSSION:</b> Discuss draft Metro staff recommended actions in response to public comments and identify draft recommended actions for JPACT discussion</li> </ul>
	10/10	<i>Metro Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DISCUSSION:</b> Discuss draft recommended actions in response to public comments (focus on topics identified by Council for discussion)</li> </ul>
	10/18	MTAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Make final recommendation to MPAC</b> on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>
	10/19	JPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DISCUSSION:</b> Discuss draft recommended actions in response to public comments (focus on topics identified by TPAC for JPACT discussion)</li> </ul>
	10/25	MPAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Make final recommendation to Metro Council</b> on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	11/3	TPAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Make final recommendation to JPACT</b> on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>
	11/7	<i>Metro Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DISCUSSION: <i>Discuss MPAC recommendation and TPAC recommendation to JPACT on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</i></b></li> </ul>
	11/16	JPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Make final recommendation to Metro Council</b> on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>
	11/30	Metro Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Public hearing and consider final action</b> on adoption of 2023 RTP (Ordinance 23-1496) and 2023 HCT Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348), and recommended actions in response to public comments</li> </ul>



2023 Regional Transportation Plan

***Working draft***

# Public comment report

*A summary of comments received during the final comment period for the development of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan from July 10 to Aug. 25, 2023.*

September 2023



## **Metro respects civil rights**

Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that requires that no person be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin under any program or activity for which Metro receives federal financial assistance.

Metro fully complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that requires that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination solely by reason of their disability under any program or activity for which Metro receives federal financial assistance.

If any person believes they have been discriminated against regarding the receipt of benefits or services because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, they have the right to file a complaint with Metro. For information on Metro's civil rights program, or to obtain a discrimination complaint form, visit [oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://oregonmetro.gov/civilrights) or call 503-797-1536.

Metro provides services or accommodations upon request to persons with disabilities and people who need an interpreter at public meetings. If you need a sign language interpreter, communication aid or language assistance, call 503-797-1700 or TDD/TTY 503-797-1804 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) 5 business days before the meeting. All Metro meetings are wheelchair accessible. For up-to-date public transportation information, visit TriMet's website at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org).

Metro is the federally mandated metropolitan planning organization designated by the governor to develop an overall transportation plan and to allocate federal funds for the region.

The Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) is a 17-member committee that provides a forum for elected officials and representatives of agencies involved in transportation to evaluate transportation needs in the region and to make recommendations to the Metro Council. The established decision-making process assures a well-balanced regional transportation system and involves local elected officials directly in decisions that help the Metro Council develop regional transportation policies, including allocating transportation funds. JPACT serves as the MPO board for the region in a unique partnership that requires joint action with the Metro Council on all MPO decisions.

Project web site: [oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://oregonmetro.gov/rtp)

The preparation of this report was financed in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A. Online Survey Public Comment Report

Appendix B. Email Comments on Public Review Draft and Strategies through

Appendix C. Letters submitted on Public Review Draft and Strategies through

Appendix D. Voicemails submitted on Public Review Draft and Strategies through

Appendix E. Written and closed caption transcript of RTP Public Hearing (7/27/23)

Appendix F. Consultation meeting summaries

Appendix G. Online comments submitted

Appendix H. Public Comment Index

## INTRODUCTION

Our region's economic prosperity and quality of life depend on a transportation system that provides every person and business with access to safe, reliable, healthy and affordable ways to get around. The Regional Transportation Plan provides a shared vision and investment strategy that guides investments for all forms of travel to keep people connected and commerce moving throughout the Portland metropolitan region. The plan is updated every five years to stay ahead of future growth and address trends and challenges facing the region.

The greater Portland region continues to grow and change, requiring new and expanded transportation options while maintaining the system of today. One-half million new residents are expected to live in the Portland region by 2045 – about half from growing families. Communities are becoming more racially and culturally diverse, and the aging population is growing. People are shopping and working in new ways that will require different transportation solutions.

The region is facing urgent global and regional challenges. Climate change is happening faster than predicted and the transportation system is not fully prepared for the expected Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Technological changes in transportation, communication and other areas are radically altering our daily lives. The impacts of climate change, generations of systemic racism, economic inequities and the pandemic have made clear the need for action. Systemic inequities mean that communities have not equally benefited from public policy and investments, and our changing climate and the pandemic has exacerbated many disparities experienced by Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities, people with low income, women and other marginalized populations. Safety, housing affordability, homelessness and public health and economic disparities have been intensified by the global pandemic and continue to be of concern. As the greater Portland region continues to emerge from the disruptions of the pandemic and respond to other urgent trends and challenges, this RTP provides an opportunity for all levels of government, community members and businesses to work together to deliver a better transportation future.

This report summarizes the comments received for the final comment period held from July 10, 2023 through Aug. 25, 2023. Comments received will guide refinements to the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan for consideration by the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation and the Metro Council.

## PUBLIC COMMENT OVERVIEW

From July 10 to Aug. 25, 2023, Metro held a 45-day public comment period on the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and High Capacity Transit Strategy. The feedback received through the public comment period builds on the input received through public engagement since fall 2021, when Metro started engaging local, regional and state agencies, Tribes and the public to update the RTP.

During the public comment period, Metro invited comments and feedback from members of the public, community and business organizations, regional advisory committees, agency partners and policymakers. There were a variety of resources available to review and platforms to provide feedback and comments:

- **Public review draft materials:** The public review drafts of the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy and their appendices were posted on the 2023 RTP webpage at [oregonmetro.gov/rtp](https://oregonmetro.gov/rtp). Supplemental materials were also posted to the webpage to provide interactive and accessible versions of these documents. Those materials included executive summaries of the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy and an interactive map and project list of the RTP investment priorities.
- **Online survey:** An online survey provided brief overviews of key elements of the 2023 RTP, including the project list, new and updated policies and High Capacity Transit Strategy priorities. The survey invited feedback on whether these key elements of the plan will move the greater Portland's transportation system in the right direction. They survey also provided opportunities for open-ended feedback. Nearly 700 people responded to the online survey.
- **Comment platforms:** There were several ways for people to provide specific comments and suggested changes to the plan, including an online comment form, email, letter and voicemail. More than 50 emails and 20 letters were received proposing specific changes to the draft RTP and strategies. The final public comment report documents all comments received.
- **Public hearing:** The Metro Council held a public hearing on July 27, 2023 and received testimony from 13 people on a range of topics. The closed caption transcript of hearing testimony is provided in Appendix E.
- **Consultation meetings:** Metro staff invited federal, state and local resource, land management and regulatory agencies to consult on the public review draft 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy in accordance with [23 CFR 450.316](#). Metro convened two separate consultation meetings on Aug. 17 (resource agencies) and Aug. 22 (federal and state agencies). These consultation activities built on consultations with agencies earlier in the 2023 RTP process. Summaries of consultation meetings held during public comment are included in Appendix F.

### Snapshot of participation

*(Comment counts are subject to change as comments continue to be processed by staff.)*

- **663 online survey participants** providing more than **500** comments
- **40** letters sent in by local jurisdictions, community-based organizations, business and community members
- **More than 50** emails
- **20** community members provide in-person or written testimony at the public hearing on July 27, 2023.
- **306** comments submitted through the **online comment form**



Throughout the 2023 RTP update, Metro invited consultation with the seven Tribes to inform Metro's 2023 update to the Regional Transportation Plan and staff and representatives from multiple Tribes engaged formally and informally. No formal consultation meetings were held with Tribes during the public comment period. Metro's Tribal Liaison engaged with Tribes informally during this time.

- **Notifications and notices:** Public notices of the comment period were provided to local neighborhood involvement and community outreach offices at jurisdictions across the region. Notices were published in newspapers across the region and on the Metro website. Metro also posted to social media throughout the public comment period. Notifications were sent to the RTP interested persons list (2,772 people) in addition to Metro's four regional advisory committees and their respective interested parties. Partner agencies and organizations engaged throughout the RTP update also posted the public comment opportunity.

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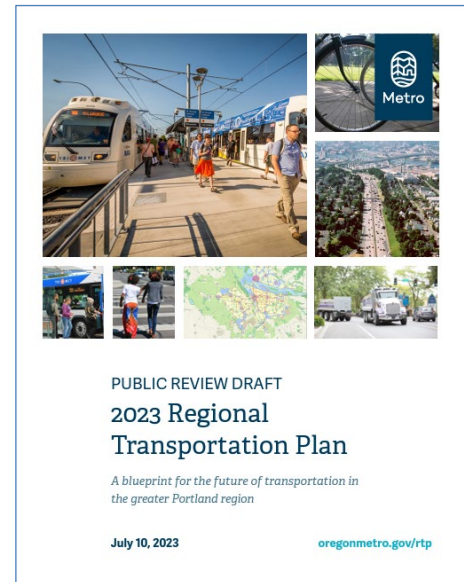


## ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

During the public comment survey, an online survey collected public feedback on the investments and policies in the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and High-Capacity Transit Strategy. There were 663 survey participants.<sup>1</sup> A summary of the survey follows, and a complete report of the survey is included in Appendix A.

The survey included introduced the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and included questions across five topic areas:

1. Priority types of transportation investments
2. High-capacity transit priorities
3. New and updated guiding policies: pricing and mobility policies
4. Moving forward together: feedback on what the region should work on in the next five years.
5. Demographic information



Survey respondents were asked to select the county where they live. This question was optional, and 283 survey participants responded. This summary includes results cross-tabulated by county of respondents.

**Table 1: Survey participation by county**

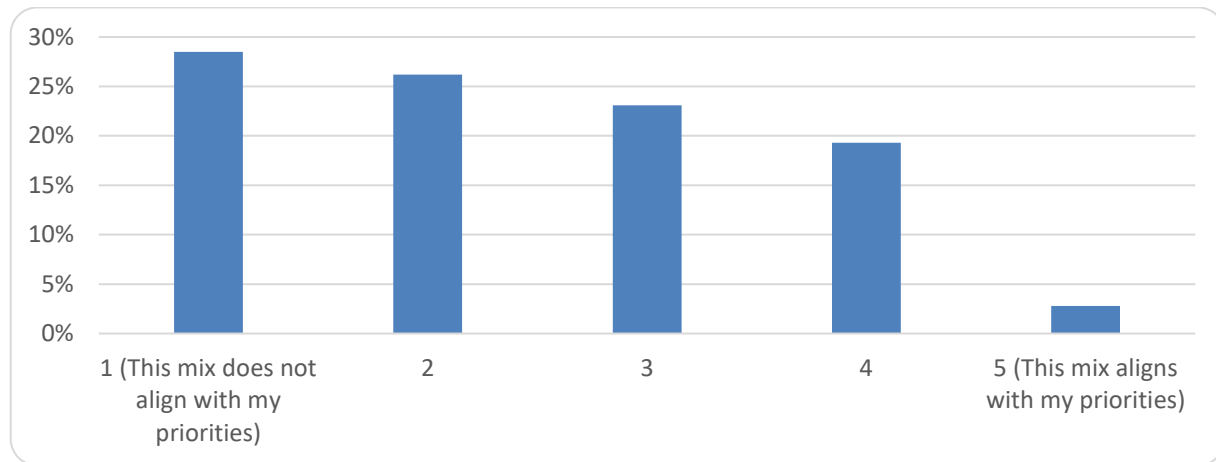
	Number of survey respondents who provided their county	Percent of survey respondents who provided their county	Percent of population within the MPA in each county
<i>Clackamas</i>	35	12%	18%
<i>Multnomah</i>	194	69%	48%
<i>Washington</i>	47	17%	34%
<i>Clark</i>	2	0.7%	
<i>Other – write in</i>	5	2%	

### 1. Priority transportation investments

The survey displayed the estimated costs of the RTP constrained list of capital projects by investment category and asked: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well does the mix of investment in the draft project list match your priorities? There were 389 respondents to this question. The most frequent response was 1 (28.5% of participants). The median score for this question was 3.

<sup>1</sup> This survey is an engagement tool for collecting feedback from the public; it is not intended to express a scientific, statistically valid representation of all of the region's residents.

**Figure 1: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well does the mix of investment in the draft project list match your priorities? (All responses)**



- Among Clackamas County participants (35), most people indicated that the mix of investments aligns with their priorities. The most frequently selected score was 4 (34.3% of respondents).
- Among Multnomah County participants (194), most people indicated that the mix of investments does not align with their priorities. The most frequently selected score was 1 (32.3% of respondents). Among
- Washington County participants (47), most people indicated that the mix of investments does not align with their priorities (scores of 1 or 2) but there were relatively more scores of 3 and 4 than among Multnomah County participants. The most frequently selected score among Washington County participants was 3 (26.7% of respondents).

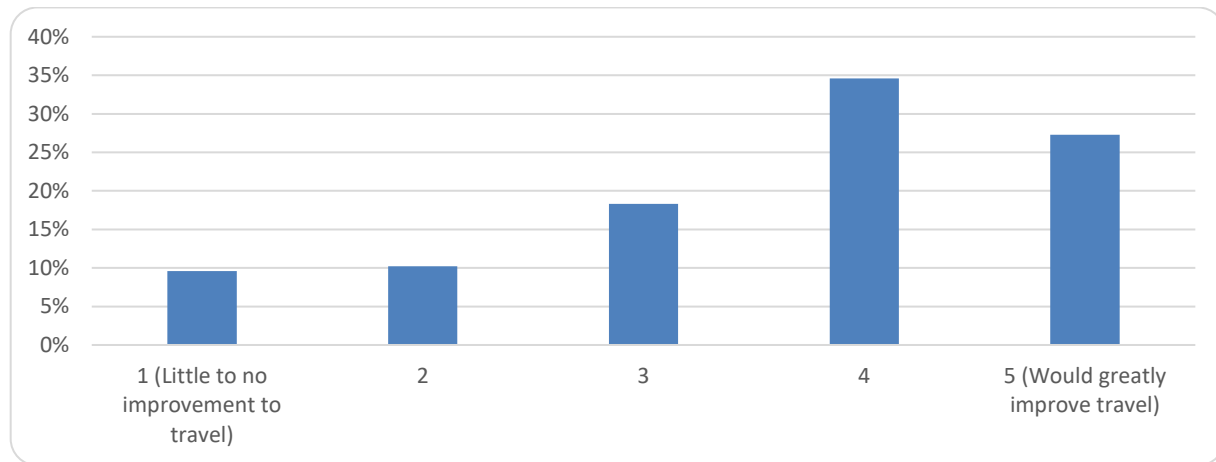
Participants were invited to share open-ended comments about their transportation investment priorities. Responses are included in Appendix A.

## 2. High capacity transit strategy

The survey displayed the High Capacity Transit Strategy Vision and asked: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you think the priorities for high capacity transit will improve travel in the greater Portland region? There were 344 responses to this question. The most frequently response to this question was a score of 4 (34.6%) and the second most frequently given response was a five (27.3%) indicating that most survey participants felt that the prioritized list of high capacity transit projects would improve travel throughout the region.



**Figure 2: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you think the priorities for high capacity transit will improve travel in the greater Portland region? (All responses)**



- Among Clackamas County participants (33), most people indicated priorities for high capacity transit will improve travel in the region. The most frequently selected score was 4 (33.3% of respondents).
- Among Multnomah County participants (188 responses), most people indicated priorities for high capacity transit will improve travel in the region. The most frequently selected score was 4 (35.1% of respondents).
- Among Washington County participants (46), the most frequently selected score was also 4 (34.8% of respondents). However, the next most frequently selected response was 3 (26.1% of respondents).

The survey provided information about the priority corridors in the High Capacity Transit Strategy, noting that tier 1 high capacity transit projects have been identified locally and regionally as priorities and asked: of the corridors identified in tiers 2-4 for high capacity transit investments, what corridors are most important to you and your community? (Select up to three.) The top three projects that received the highest response were:

- Central City Tunnel (36.7% of all participants)
- St. Johns to Milwaukie via Cesar Chavez (30.8% of all participants)
- Beaverton – Tigard – Lake Oswego – Milwaukie – Clackamas Town Center (18.4% of all participants)

Participant scoring of the high capacity transit corridors varied slightly between counties, but generally participants across counties prioritized the same corridors, with some variation Washington County's highest rated corridor was Beaverton - Tigard - Tualatin - Oregon City (40.5%) and Clackamas County's second highest rated corridor was Park Ave MAX Station to Oregon City in the vicinity of McLoughlin (41.9%).

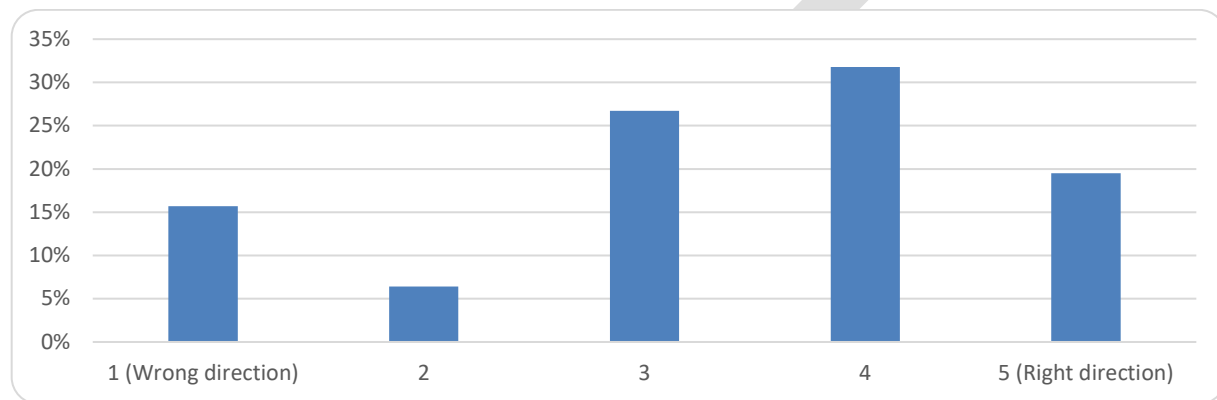
Participants were invited to share open-ended comments about what decision-makers should consider while the High Capacity Strategy is implemented. Responses are included in Appendix A.

### 3. Guiding policies

The survey provided an overview of the new and updated policies in the 2023 RTP, including the pricing policies and mobility policies, and asked: on a scale of one to five, how well these policies guide the region's transportation system in the right direction?

There were 236 responses to the question about the pricing policies. The median score for this question was 3, indicating there is generally support for the pricing policies included in the 2023 RTP.

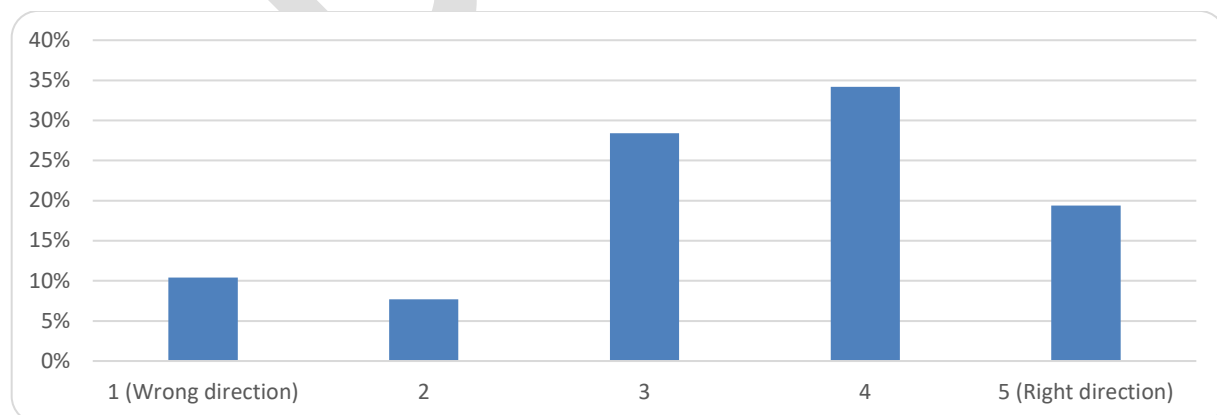
**Figure 3: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you think the pricing policies guide the region's transportation system in the right direction? (All responses)**



- Among Clackamas County participants (29), the most frequently selected score was 4 (27.6% of respondents).
- Among Multnomah County participants (149), the most frequently selected score was 4 (35.6% of respondents).
- Among Washington County participants (35), the most frequently selected score was 3 (28.6% of respondents).

There were 222 responses to the question about the mobility policies. The **median score was 4**.

**Figure 4: On a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you think the mobility policies guide the region's transportation system in the right direction? (All responses)**



- Among Clackamas County participants (29), the most frequently selected score was 5 (27.6% of respondents).
- Among Multnomah County participants (138), the most frequently selected score was 4 (34.3% of respondents).
- Among Washington County participants (35), the most frequently selected score was 3 (28.6% of respondents).

Survey participants were asked if there is anything that cities, counties, Metro, transit providers, and the state should consider as the policies are being implemented. Responses are included in Appendix A.

#### 4. Moving Forward Together

Survey participants were asked to share their thoughts about the future of transportation in greater Portland by responding to two open-ended questions. Most frequently mentioned topics are summarized below. A more extensive analysis of responses and the complete list of survey responses is included in Appendix A.

The first question in this section asked: What's one big idea you have for improving greater Portland's transportation system? (242 responses) **The second question in this section asked:** *with decision-makers about transportation in greater Portland. (250 responses). Among the responses to these two questions, the top themes were the same.*

**Transit** (163) **service** (66) and **transit infrastructure** (68) were most frequently mentioned in comments. Most often, participants expressed a desire to see investments in transit frequency, longer operating hours, fewer transfers across the system, and overall improvements to network **connectivity** (23). Other participants described a need for better transit infrastructure including expansion of transit priority lanes, transit stop improvements like better lighting, trash cans, or seating.

*"Pedestrian and bicycle safety should be the greatest priorities. There is too much emphasis on moving vehicles, while pedestrian deaths are increasing."*

*"More express services (that skip stops) along existing lines (both rail and bus)."*

*"Increased frequency across all public modes of transportation and minimum connection times."*

*"I am a single disabled parent with a young child, and every time we take public transportation there is some incident that makes us feel unsafe. Help us feel safe in our city again make Portland the city that everyone used to love. Fix our safety concerns."*

Active Transportation (114) was mentioned by participants. Commenters frequently mentioned a need to shift mode choice to biking and walking, prioritize project implementation and funding for active transportation infrastructure and craft policies to better address the needs and safety of active transportation users. Several participants also acknowledged the connection between investing in active transportation and addressing climate change (48).

*“Getting rid of all roadway expansions, increasing access to sidewalks and bike lanes and putting some type of local tolling in place to properly price access to the public right of way so these projects can be implemented more quickly.”*

*“We need to adjust the entire transportation system to provide for greater reliance on active transportation, remote work, online shopping, and safer public transit.”*

*“Keep pushing bikes, walking, and transit”*

*“Be radical in prioritizing non-drive along modes! Transit, walking, and biking should be the easiest, most efficient, and most attractive options. We need radical investment to shift away from the discouraging trend that is having significant impacts on quality of life in the region.”*

*“We are in a climate and affordability crisis. All modes that help alleviate these issues (walking/biking/transit) should be receiving our support and investment.”*

Safety was a frequently mentioned theme with 100 comments. Several survey respondents mentioned a lack of perceived safety on transit as the primary reason for not using that mode. Many commenters raised concerns about the safety of biking and walking on existing infrastructure. Homelessness around transit stops and mixed-use trails was often cited as a barrier for using those modes. Several comments expressed a need to prioritize safety for vulnerable road users, in underserved communities, and for historically marginalized groups.

*“Safety! I want to feel safe in any and all modes of transportation, and I do not.”*

*“The main reason myself and many others I know don't use transit in Portland is because of safety concerns, and discomfort with so many homeless people sleeping or hanging out at the stations and on transit.”*

*“Pedestrian and bicycle safety should be the greatest priorities. There is too much emphasis on moving vehicles, while pedestrian deaths are increasing.”*

## EMAILS AND LETTERS

Almost 100 letters and emails were received suggesting recommendations to the policy chapters, project lists and more general comments on the plan and supporting strategies. All emails and letters received are included in Appendix B. Of these comments, all substantive comments are under consideration by Metro staff and amendments will be recommended, when feasible, to address the comments and edits provided. Comments about specific projects will be shared with the sponsoring agencies.

## PUBLIC HEARING - JULY 27, 2023

A public hearing on the public review draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and High Capacity Transit Strategy was held at a Metro Council meeting on Thursday July 27, 2023 at the Metro Regional Center and online. The closed caption transcript of hearing testimony is included in Appendix E of the final comment report. Twenty people testified in-person or through written testimony on a range of topics, including:

- Highlighting the region’s traffic safety crises with record pedestrian deaths and advocating for prioritizing safety.
- Highlighting the climate crisis and emphasizing the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled to meet climate goals. There’s a need to adjust assumptions in climate modeling to reflect actual trends in vehicles and fleet.
- Support for policies in chapter 3 of the Regional Transportation Plan, with an emphasis on the need to align investment priorities with policies and implement the policies in the plan. Redefine chapter 8 to be an actionable plan that addresses concerns.
- Concerns related to equity, including the need to prioritize investments in communities of color and low-income communities that are most impacted by traffic crashes and most in need of travel options.
- Concerns about gentrification and the need for the RTP to invest in anti-displacement.
- Improve metrics that measure the RTP’s impact on equity.
- Concerns about the limitations of transit, not being fast or reliable enough.
- Parking, including both support for reducing parking to meet climate goals and criticism of reduced parking requirements near affordable housing in transit oriented development.
- The region urgently needs to funding for transportation; look to the 2025 legislative package to align 2027 RTP.
- Support for pricing that is reinvested in transit, walking and biking and not widening freeways. Consider region-wide mitigations for pricing impacts to low-income communities so every city does not need to reinvent the wheel on how to mitigate impacts.
- Three of the written testimonies were in support of Frog Ferry as a desirable alternative to driving that would increase community connection and resilience.
- One written testimony endorsed the No More Freeways comments on the Regional Transportation Plan.



## CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Metro staff invited federal, state and local resource, wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies to consult on the public review draft RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy in accordance with [23 CFR 450.316](#). Metro convened a consultation meeting for resource agencies on Aug. 17 and a consultation meeting for state and federal agencies on Aug. 22. These meetings were the third round in a series of consultation meetings that Metro hosted with state, federal, local and resource agencies throughout the 2023 RTP update. Twenty staff from various agencies participated in the consultation meetings. Summaries of consultation meetings held during the public comment period are included Appendix F. Key themes and comments heard during the consultation meetings are summarized below.

Metro also invited consultation with the seven Tribes to inform Metro's 2023 update to the Regional Transportation Plan. In alphabetical order, these Tribes included: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Metro's Tribal Affairs Program staff submitted a comment that provides an overview of the priorities, concerns, themes, and requests identified through tribal consultation and engagement with participating Tribes during the 2023 RTP process.

### **Aug. 17, 2023 consultation meeting**

Metro hosted a consultation meeting on Aug. 17, focused on the 2023 RTP's environmentally focused policies and Environmental Assessment. The following agencies attended the Aug. 17 consultation meeting: City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Clean Water Services (CWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metro Parks & Nature and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). Key topics from the discussion included:

- Consideration for emerging tools, data and policies related to habitat conservation and mitigation being developed by partner agencies.
- Early consideration for environmental impacts in transportation planning processes is increasingly important with new NEPA timelines.
- Early coordination with local agencies can help leverage transportation projects to implement other agencies' needed infrastructure updates.

### **Aug. 22, 2023 consultation meeting**

Metro hosted a consultation meeting on Aug. 22, focused on discussing and receiving comments on the Public Review Draft of 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and process. The following agencies attended the Aug. 22 consultation meeting: Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SWRTC), City of Wilsonville South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) and TriMet. Key discussion topics included:

- Updated requirements under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Appreciation for Metro's collaborative and transparent 2023 Regional Transportation Plan process.

- An interest from agency staff in supporting the work outlined in chapter 8 of the 2023 RTP, acknowledging that there is a significant amount of urgent work to do, especially related to local funding needs and an update of 2040.

## ONLINE COMMENT FORM

An online comment form was available for people who wanted to suggest specific changes or edits to the text of the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy. Members of the public, transportation agencies and organizations used the comment form to provide comments, feedback and suggested edits to the Public Review Draft Regional Transportation Plan and High Capacity Transit Strategy.

There were ## commenters who provided their names. These comments are attached to this report, along with comments received by email, mail and voicemail. Of these comments, all substantive comments are under consideration by Metro staff and amendments will be recommended, when feasible, to address the comments and edits provided. Comments about specific projects have been shared with the sponsoring agencies. An additional ## people submitted comments using the online comment form and did not provide their names.

Of the comments received through the online comment form, most were submitted by community members or organizations. Of the 307 comments, 75 were submitted by ODOT staff and one by the City of Tualatin. City staff comments are not included in the following summary.

The following section summarizes the top reoccurring themes from online comment form submissions. Many comments included multiple topics. For example, many of the project specific comments were supporting or encouraging faster implementation of walking and biking investments. Some of the comment opposing freeway projects or road capacity also supported increased transit investments.

- Projects (92 comments)
- Support for transit investments (77 comments)
- Support for walking/biking investments (53 comments)
- Opposition to freeway projects and added road capacity (39 comments)

Additional recurring comments included concerns about climate change (17 comments) personal safety in public space and on transit (11 comments) and traffic safety concerns (14 comments). There were six (6) comments that called for increased investment in road maintenance and four (4) comments that supported increased capacity for cars.

### **Support for transit investment was the most frequently mentioned theme among the comments. (76 comments)**

More than 55 comments suggested that the greater Portland region needs more transit. Some of these comments were in support of specific transit projects and others called for investing in transit generally. Additionally, 23 comments voiced the need for improved transit service.

*A Max Green Line Extension to Oregon City or near to the Clackamas Community Collage would be nice. It's really tough just trying to get to Oregon City and getting out of Oregon City like before Midnight is a pain. The only thing reliable in and out of Oregon City are just the buses and most of the buses there don't run very often at late nights. – Tim Roth, Portland*

*I want to make a comment upon how slow it is for me to get from Beaverton to SE Portland. It takes*

*about 2 hours with Public Transportation and I think that is why people choose cars over taking public transportation. If there is anyway that could be looked upon that will be great.* – Lei Lei Win, Portland, African Youth Community Organization

*I live in Cornelius and plan to continue living there for some time. I drive to work right now but would likely switch back to taking Trimet if you were to build the blue line (or some MAX extension) out to Cornelius/Forest Grove area.* – No name provided.

**Support for investing in walking and bicycling. (53 comments) Many of these comments were in support of specific bicycle and pedestrian projects.**

*“I don’t have time to read through all those plans to say that decent reliable transportation should be a right to everyone. Cars are destroying the planet and killing pedestrians and drivers alike. Transportation in the city of Portland should be more reliable and easy than taking a car.”* – John Peterman

*“I would like to see more % invested in bike and walk infrastructure. I rely on Portland’s bike and walk infrastructure every day and would be able to have a higher quality of life if it were improved.”* – Addie Olson

**Opposition to adding capacity to freeways was mentioned in 28 comments. There were also a handful of comments that generally opposed investing in car infrastructure (11 comments).**

*“We need to stop blindly investing in increased car capacity. It is a never ending cycle that will consume our limited resources, exclude our most vulnerable, and decreases the livability of our communities. Cars have a place but we have enough infrastructure to support that place. We now need to focus on reducing car trips where possible to release the pressure on our existing system and build out other modes equitably. Focusing on bike, ped, and transit in the next facade is going to pay dividends in the long run.”* - Nic Westendorf, Portland

*“This [Interstate Bridge Replacement Project] is exactly what the Portland area does not need. Providing more capacity for SOVs traveling through the city is a recipe for lowering the quality of life for a large part of Portland’s citizens. In essence, that is the history of I-5. - Many of the goals of this project can be met much better via a different modes/route.”* – Sean Pliska, Portland

*“Why are we spending 975 million dollars on the antiquated idea that auxiliary lanes and shoulders reduce traffic congestion? The highway cover is a nice idea, but discouraging car travel is the easiest way to combat congestion on the interstate. Think of how much that money could do for improving public transit, which is a much more climate conscious and equitable solution to the problem of traffic on highways.”* – Amythest Lee, Portland

**Address climate change (16 comments). Many of these comments also voiced opposition for projects that add car capacity and/or these comments voiced support for investments in transit and walking and biking.**

*How is it that we're spending SO LITTLE on high impact climate strategies?? 32% for 2030 and 26% for 2045?? That is unacceptable to me for the metro transit system - transportation account for 30% of all GHG emissions, and the metro council is fully supporting the dirtiest mode of transportation*

*(cars) with HALF of our capital investment going towards car-based infrastructure (page 34).* – Christian Bayless, Hillsboro

*As an advocate for Lloyd, for climate, and for a densely livable Portland, I am fundamentally opposed to freeway expansion of any type, especially as it relates to the Lloyd, Lower Albina, and other historically black neighborhoods. I am for capping and reconnecting, however, a freeway widening project and capping/covering should not be included in the same conversation, especially as we have an extremely small window of time to tackle emissions and decarbonization goals.* – Kristin Leiber, Lloyd EcoDistrict, Portland

**Traffic safety concerns were woven throughout a range of comments, with references to unsafe driver behavior and/or the need for enforcement. (14 comments)**

*“By emphasizing pedestrian and bicycle safety in the most appropriate areas and fostering meaningful collaboration, Metro can play a pivotal role in reshaping transportation projects for the benefit of all community members, especially those who have long been overlooked.”* - Community Cycling Center, Andando en Bicicletas Caminando (ABC)

*“Install ITS and CCTV cameras (project Barbour Blvd ITS)”* – Noor Sakawadin, Oregon Somali Bravaness Community

**There was also a handful of comments that referenced not feeling safe in public spaces and/or on transit. (11 comments)**

*“Pre-pandemic I was a regular bus rider 5-days a week to downtown portland. Post-pandemic, I have not ridden the bus once. I still commute to downtown, but not on the bus.... I do not feel safe walking to or waiting for a bus near my office. the current system needs to be maintained and made safe before any additional regional transportation plans are made....”* – No name provided, Vancouver

**There were several comments that supported adding more capacity for cars. (6 comments)**

*“Build new roads! Maintain existing roads! Stop deliberately making life difficult for drivers! Gas tax pay for transportation!”* – No name provided

*“Please support private car infrastructure. Public transit is too slow and dangerous.”* – Mike Pederson, Vancouver

## NOTICES AND NOTIFICATIONS

Public notices of the comment period were provided to local neighborhood involvement and community outreach offices at jurisdictions across the region. Notices were published in the Portland Tribune, Clackamas Review, Hillsboro News Times, Forest Grove News Times, Valley Times News, Beaverton Valley Times, El Latino de Hoy and The Asian Reporter and on the Metro website. Metro also posted to social media throughout the public comment period.

Notifications were sent to the RTP interested persons list (nearly 2,772 people) in addition to Metro's four regional advisory committees, Metro Council, their respective interested parties and the Metro Public Engagement Review Committee. Partner agencies and community and business organizations engaged throughout the RTP update posted notifications of the comment period through social media and e-newsletters and other methods to inform their members and interested parties of the comment opportunity.



### Promotion of the public comment period

Metro promoted the public comment period through the website, newsfeeds, Metro's transportation interested parties email list, technical and policy advisory and interested parties lists, social media and by requesting distribution by community involvement offices at jurisdictions across the greater Portland region:

- City of Beaverton
- City of Forest Grove
- City of Gresham
- City of Happy Valley
- City of Hillsboro
- City of Lake Oswego
- City of Milwaukie
- City of Oregon City
- City of Portland
- City of Tigard
- City of Tualatin
- City of West Linn
- City of Wilsonville
- Clackamas County
- Washington County
- Multnomah County

Metro also sent notices to community based and other organizational partners, through individual relationships built through ongoing partnerships and other engagement activities, asking them to distribute to their organization and constituencies.

- 1000 Friends of Oregon

- AARP
- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
- Audubon
- Beyond Black
- Bike Loud
- Centro Cultural
- Climate Solutions
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Community Cycling Center
- Disabilities Rights Oregon
- Division Midway Alliance
- East Portland Action Plan
- Forward Together Action
- Getting There Together
- Go Lloyd (TMA)
- Hacienda Community Development Corporation
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
- Imagine Black
- Intertwine Alliance
- Join PDX
- League of Women Voters
- Momentum Alliance
- Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity
- Native American Youth and Family Center
- Next Up
- OPAL
- Oregon Futures Lab
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Oregon Just Transition
- Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- Oregon Walks
- Ride Connection
- Street Roots
- Street Smart
- Sunrise Movement PDX
- The Street Trust
- Urban Greenspace Institute
- Urban League of Portland
- Verde
- Washington County Ignite
- Westside Transportation Alliance
- Youth Collective - The Cen

## NEXT STEPS

Later this fall, MPAC and JPACT will recommend action on the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy to the Metro Council. Metro Council will consider final action on the 2023 RTP and High Capacity Transit Strategy on Nov. 30, 2023.

Figure 5. Timeline for 2023 Regional Transportation Plan update





If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.

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September 2023

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**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT**  
**2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**  
**Public Comment Report**  
**Appendices**  
September 6, 2023

- Appendix A. Online Survey Public Comment Report
- Appendix B. Email Comments on Public Review Draft and Strategies through 8/25/23
- Appendix C. Letters submitted on Public Review Draft and Strategies through 8/25/23
- Appendix D. Voicemails submitted on Public Review Draft and Strategies through 8/25/23
- Appendix E. Written and closed caption transcript of RTP Public Hearing (7/27/23)
- Appendix F. Consultation Meeting Summaries
- Appendix G. Online Comments submitted on Public Review Draft and Strategies through 8/25/23
- Appendix H. Public Comment Index

TPAC DISCUSSION DRAFT  
9/7/23

**Proposed Discussion Topics on Key Concerns  
with 2023 Regional Transportation Plan**

This document summarizes five topics identified by Metro staff for more in-depth policy discussion by the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council. For each topic, a summary of key concerns raised during the public comment period. Potential recommended actions will be developed to serve as a starting point for discussion in October and November. The potential recommended actions are anticipated to reflect a combination of potential technical and policy recommendations.

**Discussion Topic 1- Investment Emphasis/Investment Mix**

Key concerns	Potential recommended actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Too much emphasis on throughway investment relative to other investments.</li> <li>2. Not enough transit service relative to throughway investment levels, particularly in the near-term.</li> <li>3. Not enough emphasis on completing gaps in active transportation network relative to throughway investment levels, particularly in the near-term.</li> <li>4. Not enough emphasis on addressing the safety needs of urban arterials relative to throughway investment levels, particularly in the near-term.</li> <li>5. Not enough emphasis on reducing climate pollution relative to throughway investment levels, particularly in the near-term.</li> </ol>	<p><i>To be developed pending further discussion.</i></p>

TPAC DISCUSSION DRAFT  
9/7/23

**Discussion Topic 2 – RTP Pricing Policy Application to Toll Projects**

Key concerns	Potential recommended actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concern about whether future MTIP amendments to advance ODOT tolling program projects will be subject to the RTP pricing policies and actions.</li> <li>2. Toll project analysis has been insufficient to understand the impacts of potential diversion from tolling on traffic and safety on the local system.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It is unclear how much diversion from tolling is actually occurring and how much is local travel that should be using local system versus long distance travel that should be using throughways.</li> <li>b. Concern for the potential for more fatal and serious injury crashes on urban arterials due to diversion of throughway travel on arterial streets that are already high injury corridors. This information is needed to identify potential mitigation projects.</li> <li>c. Need to recognize that diversion is highly dependent on local conditions (e.g., I-205 in West Linn vs. in East Portland) and therefore must be addressed at the mobility corridor level.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Concern that ODOT has not demonstrated how tolling projects in the RTP (e.g., I-205 Toll Project and Regional Mobility Pricing Project) will help meet state and regional climate and safety goals and GHG reduction targets.</li> </ol>	<p><i>To be developed pending further discussion.</i></p>

TPAC DISCUSSION DRAFT  
9/7/23

**Discussion Topic 3 - Increasing regional transportation investments**

Key concerns	Potential recommended actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate funding to meet the region’s currently identified needs and RTP goals; the gas tax continues to fall behind in the near-term and not viable in long-term, yet it is unclear whether new revenues such as congestion pricing, VMT/road user fee will fill this gap.</li> <li>There is not regional agreement on how to prioritize existing or new funding.</li> </ol>	<p><i>To be developed pending further discussion.</i></p>

**Discussion Topic 4 - Mobility Policy Implementation**

Key concerns	Potential recommended actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about how (measures and processes) and when the Regional Mobility Policy must be implemented through Transportation System Plans and local comprehensive plan amendments (land use decisions).</li> </ol>	<p><i>To be developed pending further discussion.</i></p>

DRAFT

TPAC DISCUSSION DRAFT  
9/7/23

**Discussion Topic 5 - Climate Tools and Analysis**

Key concerns	Potential recommended actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concern that the RTP climate analysis and Climate Smart Strategy did not meaningfully inform RTP investment priorities, as indicated by the high level of investment in freeway projects relative to investment in transit, biking and walking projects.</li> <li>2. Concern that key Statewide Transportation Strategy (STS) assumptions provided by the state for the RTP climate analysis are lagging, in particular new road user charges, vehicle fleet mix, share of electric vehicles, and vehicle fleet turnover. Commenters noted several specific areas where the documentation is inadequate or fails to describe how state policies and programs will reverse trends that currently appear to be moving in the wrong direction and driving an increase in carbon emissions.</li> <li>3. Concern that Metro and the State are using VisionEval for climate analysis in the STS, STIP and RTP, whereas MOVES, the federally-approved emissions analysis tool, is being used for emissions analysis of major projects in the NEPA process.</li> </ol>	<p><i>To be developed pending further discussion.</i></p>

## Memorandum

**To:** C4 Metro Subcommittee  
**From:** Team TPAC, Representing Clackamas County & Clackamas Cities  
**Re:** September 1, 2023 TPAC Highlights  
**Date:** September 14, 2023

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### Overview

Following is a brief summary of the July TPAC Meeting. Meeting materials can be found [here](#).

### General Updates

- From June – early July, there were an estimated 8 traffic deaths in the tri-county area.

### 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Next Steps

#### Background

In early November, TPAC will be asked to issue a final recommendation to JPACT on adoption of the 2023 RTP and 2023 HCT Strategy. The process for advancing materials to JPACT will include two elements:

1. **Consent Items for Consideration** – Much of the RTP is non-controversial. Some language, however, may need to be tweaked to address technical edits and other clarifications identified through the public review process. Metro proposes decision making bodies consider these elements on a “consent” basis without further discussion. Members may request discussion of individual consent items prior to or as part of their final action.
2. **Discussion Items for Consideration** – Some policy topics may warrant additional policy discussion by MPAC, JPACT and the Metro Council. TPAC and MTAC will begin discussion of these items at their September 13 and September 20 meetings. An overview of these topics will be provided to MPAC, JPACT and Metro Council at their September meetings. At this time, outstanding issues include:
  - a. Investment Emphasis/Investment Mix
  - b. RTP Pricing Policy Application to Toll Projects
  - c. Increasing regional transportation investments
  - d. Mobility Policy Implementation
  - e. Climate Tools and Analysis

In September, MPAC and JPACT will receive an update on the process, public comments received and topics recommended for policy discussion. JPACT discussion of these topics will continue at the October 19 meeting. MPAC will be asked to make their respective recommendations to the Metro Council on October 25. JPACT will consider TPAC’s recommendation on November 16. The Metro Council is scheduled to consider MPAC and JPACT’s recommendations on November 30, before the current RTP expires on Dec. 6, 2023.

## SUGGESTED FEEDBACK FOR JPACT...

- Metro staff recently completed a Final Public Comment Report that documents various feedback, particularly that which was collected through an opt-in online survey. The findings from the online survey are useful but should be held in tension with data limitations: the survey is not scientifically valid, meaning there may be bias in the data pool and the results are not necessarily geographically balanced.
- Within the online RTP survey, most participants from Clackamas County indicated that the mix of investments aligns with their priorities, which wasn't the case for neighboring counties. These results are interesting, if only to demonstrate that each county has unique needs.
- Survey responses generally convey the need for more robust transit, however personal safety concerns appear to be driving people away from system usage (pun intended). As we continue to advocate for transit coverage, it may be appropriate to start talking about creative ways that we can support transit providers as they address both safety from traffic violence and personal safety.

## Better Bus Update

Formally known as “Enhanced Transit Coverage”, Better Bus is a data-driven approach to planning and designing transit priority projects through the TriMet service district. Examples of Transit Priority Tools include smaller-scale mechanisms like dedicated bus lanes, Business access and transit (BAT) lanes, queue jumps, transit signal priority, improved multi-modal interactions, consolidated bus stops, curb extensions at stops, and far-side bus stop placement. This cycle, there is about \$10M on the table for design and construction projects.

In September, project staff will be conducting a detailed review of potential project locations systemwide to understand equity, policy, geographic distribution and other factors. In October, there will be workshops to do a deeper dive into promising project locations, followed thereafter by a call for partnerships. Leading up to these activities, project staff have held introductory meetings with more than 18 jurisdictions, with additional meetings anticipated.

## Upcoming Agenda Highlights

- **October 6 – TPAC Meeting**
  - Distribution of revenues to 2027-20 ODOT funding programs – **Possible action item**
  - Ordinance 23-1496 2023 RTP: Draft Public Comment Report and Recommended Actions in Response to Public Comment
  - 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348) Discussion
  - 82nd Avenue Transit Project Update
- **November 3 – TPAC Meeting**
  - Ordinance 23-1496 on 2023 RTP, Projects and Appendices – **Recommendation to JPACT**
  - 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy (Resolution No. 23-5348) – **Recommendation to JPACT**
- **November 8 – TPAC Workshop**
  - Regional Transportation Safety Performance Report
  - 2027-30 STIP – options being discussed at OTC
  - Freight Delay Study Report Update
- **December 1 – TPAC Meeting**
  - Westside Multimodal Improvements Study



**For More Information, Contact Team TPAC**

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