



## Getting there with design

### Designing Livable Streets

*Metro is working with local, regional and state partners to update regional transportation design policies and guidelines.*

*Transportation design is one of eight policy priority areas of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update and will help shape the vision for how our shared streets look and function.*

*Livable streets support the economic, social and environmental health of our region.*

Everyone has a stake in how our streets are designed. From the delivery truck driver, to the high school student bicycling to class, to the mother driving her kids to swim lessons, and the office worker running to catch the bus, how we get there matters.

Metro's Designing Livable Streets project will update and develop new design guidelines and policies for our regional transportation network, including creating new design guidance for regional multi-use paths. In addition to the design guidelines and policies, additional resources to support implementation will be developed.

Metro will work with partners to organize workshops, forums, tours and other activities to highlight best practices in street design in the region and throughout the world.

### Why are livable streets important?

The Federal Highway Administration states that livability in transportation is about leveraging the quality, location, and type of transportation connections and services available to help achieve broader regional and community goals. In other words, creating livable streets is not an end unto itself but a way to

achieve safer and healthier communities, improved access to jobs, school, nature and services, cleaner air and water, economic prosperity, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

As the region continues to grow, designing streets that are livable will help us grow in a healthy, prosperous and equitable way.

### What will be included in the project?

Updating the current *Creating Livable Streets, Green Streets, and Trees for Green Streets* design guidelines and developing new guidelines for designing regional multi-use paths and trails is the core of the project. Resources such as local case studies, a visual library, a resource library, schematics of design treatments and community stories will be developed for use by local jurisdictions, agencies and communities.

Throughout the project on-the-ground workshops and forums, featured speakers and best practices tours will create opportunities for engagement and learning. Ultimately the project will recommend updated policies related to transportation design and safety in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

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## Why is an update of the guidelines needed?

The current design guideline handbooks were last updated in 2002. Since that time:

- Regional transportation policy has evolved with the adoption of an outcomes-based planning framework.
- Adopted regional freight, safety and active transportation plans and the 2014 Climate Smart Strategy include recommended changes and updates.
- The role of livable streets to help address traffic congestion and improve safety and mobility options for all modes is better understood.
- National research and efforts related to street design have continued to expand, especially for bikeway and intersection designs.

## Who has a role in developing the design guidelines?

Metro will work with a wide range of partners and the public on the project. Metro's technical advisory committees, MTAC and TPAC, will provide guidance and expertise through a technical work group and regular committee updates. Metro will seek expert peer review of the updated draft design guidelines. Meetings will be open to the public. Additional public engagement activities are yet to be scheduled, but will take place throughout 2016 through 2018 as part of the 2018 RTP update.

## What is the project timeline?

The project has four phases starting mid-2015 and concluding in 2018 with the adoption of updated policies in the 2018 RTP.

### Phase 1 Listening and Learning – June to Dec. 2015

With input from partners, the project work plan and desired outcomes will be finalized in this phase of the project.

### Phase 2 Visualizing Livable Streets – Jan. to Feb. 2017

Working with partners and the public, the draft update, and new design guidelines and policies will be completed in this phase of the project.

### Phase 3 Telling the Story – March to Dec. 2017

Guided by partners and the public, the design guidelines, resources and related policy updates in the 2018 RTP will be finalized in this phase of the project.

### Phase 4 Putting it Into Practice – 2018 and beyond

Working with partners and the public, the final design guidelines will be published and updated policies adopted in the 2018 RTP. Ongoing activities will support implementation of the design guidelines and policies into the future.

## Contact

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For more information on the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and related projects or to receive periodic email updates and notices of public comment opportunities, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp).