



## Getting there equitably

### Transportation equity analysis 2015-18

*This analysis will evaluate social equity outcomes of proposed short- and long-term transportation investments for five regional populations:*

- *people of color*
- *people with low income*
- *people with limited English proficiency*
- *older adults*
- *youth*

How we get around the Portland metropolitan region can have a large effect on our daily lives and broader implications for the environment we live in. Many of us have options and tools available as we go from place-to-place to help make the choice that best suits our travel needs.

But for people with fewer options, it becomes harder to meet transportation needs without having to make difficult tradeoffs.

#### **Why social equity and transportation?**

As the Portland region prepares to make its next set of investments in the transportation system, an equity analysis can help us learn how our investments affect communities where people have the fewest options for travel to meet everyday needs. Understanding these effects helps us make more informed, equitable decisions about where transportation dollars go, especially as the region weighs many competing priorities in efforts to achieve the desired outcomes for the transportation system.

The purpose of a transportation equity analysis is to measure the social equity implications of near- and long-term transportation investments and policies. By evaluating transportation investments with an emphasis on the priorities of historically underrepresented communities – people of color, people with low income, and people with limited English proficiency – as well as older adults and youth, the equity analysis provides a way to gauge how the region is doing in providing an equitable transportation system. It helps decision-makers formulate policies, actions, and investments the region can make toward achieving equitable outcomes.

As the region's metropolitan planning organization, Metro is required by federal legislation to evaluate its adopted short- and long-range regional transportation packages to ensure compliance with national civil rights regulations and guidance on environmental justice. Segments of the equity analysis fulfill elements of Metro's federal responsibilities.

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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## Components of the transportation equity analysis

From 2015 to 2018, the transportation equity analysis will:

- document demographic trends and transportation infrastructure conditions
- identify transportation priorities and the existing transportation policies that support their implementation for people of color, people with low income, and people with limited English proficiency, as well as older adults and youth
- conduct an evaluation of proposed short- and long-term transportation investments for the Portland region to see how these investments will perform in advancing equitable outcomes
- identify potential policy and investment refinements, performance measures or recommended actions for future cycles of the RTP, MTIP and the regional flexible funds allocation.

## How does this work support other efforts?

The transportation equity analysis findings and recommendations will support the technical evaluation and policy discussions for the 2018 RTP and the 2018-2021 MTIP. The equity analysis will also be coordinated with Metro's Equity Strategy, as well as other regional planning efforts including the development of the Regional Transit Strategy and the Equitable Housing Initiative. Ongoing coordination and information sharing will ensure these initiatives will inform technical transportation equity analysis findings and support policy recommendations that will guide how the region moves forward to advance the consideration of social equity in future transportation planning and investment decisions. Additionally, a partnership with Portland State University and grant funding from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) is supporting the development of transportation investment evaluation methods.

## Getting involved

A transportation equity analysis technical work group will be convened in 2016 and 2017 to advise Metro staff and review draft materials and analysis. Work group members will include topical experts and representatives from the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC). Meetings will be open to the public. Meeting information will be posted on Metro's website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp).

Additional stakeholder engagement events are yet to be scheduled, but will take place throughout 2016 through 2018.

## Contact

For more information or to receive periodic email updates on the transportation equity analysis, contact:

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