



Getting there by moving freight

Regional Freight Strategy

Metro is working with local, regional and state partners and the public to update our region's strategy for moving freight and goods for the next 25 years.

The Portland metropolitan region is the trade and transportation gateway and economic engine for the state of Oregon. Metro is working with the Port of Portland, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and other local and regional partners to develop a regional freight strategy that updates the 2010 Regional Freight Plan.

Development of the Regional Freight Strategy will occur from late 2015 to Fall 2018, as part of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. The strategy will provide an updated vision, investment strategy and action plan for moving commodities in the region.

Why is the regional freight strategy important?

A regional freight strategy is important because the movement of freight and goods transcends local jurisdictional boundaries, and includes multiple modes, employment and industrial centers, economic clusters and important regional and local freight access and delivery points. The region also functions as the trade and transportation gateway for Oregon and provides market access for many southwest Washington businesses.

The regional freight strategy will provide a coordinated vision and approach for

enhancing freight and goods movement and prioritizing freight investments based on clear priorities.

What will be included in the regional freight strategy?

The strategy will serve as the freight component of the 2018 RTP and provide direction for moving commodities and enhancing access to global, national and regional markets, reliable supply chains, connections to and between marine and airport terminals, industrial areas, intermodal facilities, rail yards and other key freight destinations in the Portland metropolitan region.

The regional freight strategy will include four major elements:

- 1) regional freight trends and challenges
- 2) regional freight vision and supporting policies to guide future investments and actions
- 3) freight investment priorities to address current and future needs
- 4) priority near-term and long-term actions to advance implementation of the strategy over the next 25 years.

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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The regional freight strategy will build on the 2010 Regional Freight Plan. Development of the strategy will be guided by an existing federal, state and regional policy framework consisting of MAP-21, the Oregon Transportation Plan, the 2040 Growth Concept, the Regional Framework Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan.

The final strategy will provide local and regional partners with an updated blueprint for prioritizing freight projects and freight-supportive policies and multimodal investments to help enhance freight mobility and goods movement in the region, improve the region's economic competitiveness, and minimize environmental and community impacts.

How does this work support other efforts?

By clearly defining the vision and implementation strategy for freight improvements throughout the region, the strategy will support the 2018 RTP update and other relevant projects and programs, including but not limited to the Regional Safety Strategy, Designing Livable Streets tools and best practices, and the Regional Travel Options Strategic Plan, among others.

The strategy will also integrate data collected to support a comprehensive update to the region's freight model and recommendations from the 2013 Westside Freight Access and Logistics Study, the Economic Value Atlas and the Over-dimensional Truck Study, both of which are anticipated to begin in late 2015.

The strategy will reinforce the importance of a shared responsibility for the success of region's freight system in helping build healthy and equitable communities and a strong economy.

Getting involved

A freight strategy 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 port districts, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Portland Freight Committee, the city of Portland, and Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. Meetings will be open to the public. Meeting information will be posted on Metro's website at www.oregonmetro.gov.

Additional engagement activities are yet to be scheduled, but will take place throughout 2016 through 2018 as part of the 2018 RTP update.

Contact

Contact Metro to receive periodic email updates on development of the 2018 Regional Freight Strategy and notices of public comment opportunities:

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For more information on the 2018 RTP, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/rtp.