



# 2035

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## EAST METRO CONNECTIONS PLAN

# Investing in the prosperity of the East Metro area

The East Metro Connections Plan brings governments together to develop a community investment strategy that supports the prosperity and livability of the East Metro area. Born out of a transportation focus, it breaks new ground by linking previously separate efforts on jobs, parks, housing, equity and transportation. In this way, different investments reinforce each other and can add up to more than the sum of their parts.

### Why is this new approach needed?

The entire region decided that a big picture look at the East Metro area is a priority. There is less money available to meet the region's growing needs. With governments working together, affordable, common solutions can be found that benefit everyone.

Metro receives federal money to be shared across all communities in the region. By applying a community investment strategy, limited regional dollars can better benefit individual communities and the region as a whole.

### This new approach integrates three essential community building blocks

#### 1 Community and economic vitality

Ensuring people want to live, work and play in the East Metro area

What improvements to our neighborhoods and employment areas improve our quality of life?

#### 2 Transportation

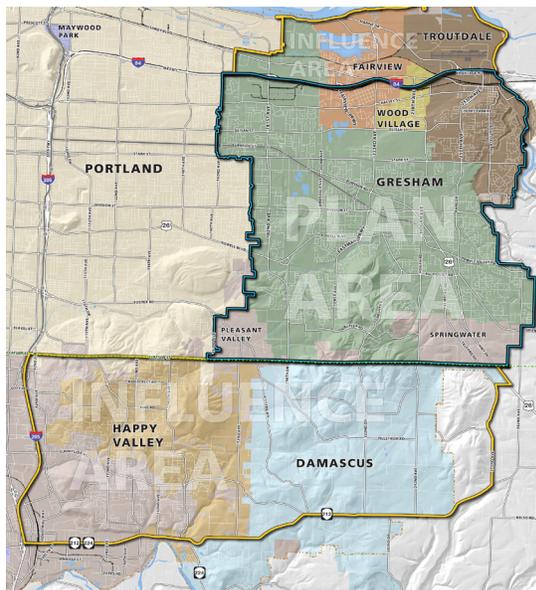
Providing safe and reliable travel options to people in cars, on foot or on bike and to trucks carrying goods

What fixes to roads, sidewalks and trails will help people get to where they want to go?

#### 3 Environment

Protecting diverse and important natural resources through responsible investments

When things are changed or built, can we improve the natural environment in the process?



Investments will be focused in Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and Multnomah County, and will complement the aspirations of neighboring communities.

### The plan's goals were endorsed by local elected community leaders

and will play an important role in shaping what on-the-ground solutions are considered in late 2011 and early 2012.

- Support north/south connectivity between Interstate 84 U.S. Route 26 as well as east/west connectivity and capacity in the East Metro plan area
- Make the best use of the existing transportation system
- Develop multiple solutions that encompass all transportation modes
- Foster economic development
- Equitably distribute both the benefits and burdens of growth
- Enhance the livability and safety of East Metro communities
- Support the local land use vision of each community
- Enhance the natural environment



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.

**Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.**  
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**Metro Council President**  
 Tom Hughes

**Metro Councilors**  
 Shirley Craddick, District 1  
 Carlotta Collette, District 2  
 Carl Hosticka, District 3  
 Kathryn Harrington, District 4  
 Rex Burkholder, District 5  
 Barbara Roberts, District 6

**Auditor**  
 Suzanne Flynn

**The East Metro Connections Plan** is the first mobility corridor refinement plan to come out of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. It implements a new approach to allocating limited transportation dollars to ensure that regional investments support local land use, community and economic development, and the environment.

**How long will it take?**

By mid-2012, your feedback will contribute to agreements and an implementation plan for future investments in Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and Multnomah County. The Steering Committee will play a key role in ensuring the outcome meets local needs and aspirations.

- Spring 2011– Identify the problem we need to solve
- Summer 2011– Develop potential solutions
- Fall 2011– Evaluate and prioritize solutions
- Winter and spring 2012 – Agree on local and regional actions to implement solutions

**How can people be involved?**

East Metro Connections Plan will be successful to the degree that it reflects the values and interests of the community it is intended to serve. That means there's an important role for you!

**Stay informed**

- Visit the East Metro Connections Plan website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/eastmetro](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/eastmetro)
- Sign up for email updates by sending a request to [trans@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:trans@oregonmetro.gov)

**Tell us what you think**

- Request a briefing at your neighborhood association or local event
- Come to a Steering Committee meeting and share your comments or contact your Steering Committee representative directly

**Get involved**

- Participate in public workshops
- Request an article about East Metro Connections Plan for your local newsletter
- Other ideas? Let us know

**For more information**  
[trans@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:trans@oregonmetro.gov)  
 503-797-1756  
[www.oregonmetro.gov/eastmetro](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/eastmetro)

Current work focuses on understanding conditions that exist now and what we anticipate in the future.

- Where do people live and work and how do they get there?
- Where are important employment and commercial areas?
- What and where are the safety issues?
- What strategies are in place for economic development?
- What social equity considerations need attention?
- Where are important environmental resources and how can they be protected?
- How do trucks and goods move in the area?
- What are the public transit, bicycle and pedestrian systems?
- What investments (projects) have been proposed for the area?

**How will things change as a result?**

This process will result in agreement on near- and long-term investments. In your neighborhood, these improvements should help you and your neighbors meet your daily needs. For example, you may see new or safer crosswalks and better traffic flow at intersections. For employers and community developers, a plan with agreement from local jurisdictions that looks out to 2035 provides certainty and incentive for long-term investments.

**Steering Committee**

The East Metro Connections Plan Steering Committee is meant to ensure a broad representation and diversity of views. The committee will meet at key milestones to make incremental decisions that lead to the final agreement.

Councilor Shirley Craddick, Metro  
 Mayor Mike Weatherby, City of Fairview  
 Mayor Jim Kight, City of Troutdale  
 Mayor Patricia Smith, City of Wood Village  
 Mayor Shane Bemis, City of Gresham  
 Commissioner Diane McKeel, Multnomah County  
 Rian Windsheimer, ODOT  
 Steve Entenman, East Metro Economic Alliance  
 Mark Garber, East Metro Economic Alliance  
 Carol Rulla, Coalition of Gresham Neighborhoods  
 Greg Olson, Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee  
 Councilor Diana Helm, City of Damascus  
 Commissioner Paul Savas, Clackamas County  
 Alan Lehto, TriMet  
 Susie Lahsene, Port of Portland  
 Hector Osuna, El Programa Hispano  
 Dwight Unti, Tokola Properties  
 Ron Cazares, FedEx  
 Jane Van Dyke, Columbia Slough Watershed