

Getting there with a connected region



2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE Regional Leadership Forum 2 summary

Building the Future We Want

The region is looking ahead to how our transportation system will accommodate future growth and change – and what investments we should make over the next 25 years to build a transportation system that provides every person and business with access to safe, reliable, affordable and healthy ways to get around.

What did leaders say?

Technology is a tool, not a solution.

There are people who are not in rooms like this who depend on the conversation.

People will support what they help create.

On Sept. 23, 2016, the Metro Council convened more than 70 leaders and 80 stakeholders from across the Portland metropolitan region to discuss the role of technology in our transportation system and to learn about successful transportation funding campaigns in Los Angeles, the Bay Area and Seattle.

City, county, regional and state policymakers and business and community leaders came together to explore what the future of transportation might look like from local and national leaders actively engaged in envisioning the future with their communities. Forum participants came from established and emerging businesses, business alliances, workforce partnerships, skilled trades organizations, and community-based organizations working on transportation advocacy, environmental justice, housing, community design, workforce equity, environmental protection and issues impacting youth and older adults.

Bringing these diverse perspectives to the conversation prompted a call for greater representation from communities whose quality of life and economic prosperity are most often impacted by our region’s transportation system.



“For folks from different walks of life, from different income levels, and different parts of the region, if there isn’t a way for them to remain connected and a way for the transportation system to be efficient, they really fear for their future.”

–Cyreena Boston Ashby, COO, Oregon Public Health Institute



Five key takeaways

1. Technology and data are tools, not solutions.

Innovative technologies, ranging from car sharing and ridesharing services to electric cars and self-driving vehicles, are fundamentally changing how we travel. We need to enact thoughtful policies that deliver helpful technology, while ensuring these new tools and services benefit all residents and businesses and support our vision for the future.

2. We need to keep people and goods connected and moving with smart investments and measurable results.

Transportation investments support our region's economic prosperity and quality of life. Investments should safely and reliably connect people work, school, services and other opportunities; maximize use of existing infrastructure; and promote greater use of efficient travel modes for both people and goods. This includes keeping our existing transportation system in good repair and using technology and other tools to achieve greater efficiencies. An essential step is providing more and better travel options and greater access to transportation services for everyone.

3. We must take steps to strengthen public confidence and demonstrate the benefits of transportation investments.

Building the future we want means prioritizing transportation investments that support our vision and holding ourselves accountable by measuring how investments support the desired outcomes identified in our vision. It's important that we demonstrate to the public that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

4. Coalitions need strong leadership and leaders need strong coalitions.

The region's government, business and community leaders need to work together to agree on a bold vision for the future that reflects what people and businesses value and want in the region's transportation system. We need to welcome new voices and leaders to the table to help identify solutions to address the challenges we face. This can build broad support for the solutions and help make the case more funding to build the future we want for our region.

5. People will support what they help create.

It will take more than having diverse perspectives at the table to get us to the future we want. Building deeper relationships with community and business coupled with meaningful engagement opportunities will help shape policy and investment decisions. The degree to which we invest in these relationships reflects our level of commitment to providing a transportation system that meets the needs of all communities and businesses.

More information

News coverage of the forum is available at oregonmetro.gov/forum2recap.

Materials and presentations from the forum are available at oregonmetro.gov/event/building-future-we-want.

Find out more about the 2018 RTP update at oregonmetro.gov/rtp.