



Metro

Effective Aug. 16, 2017

# 2018 Regional Freight Strategy

## Getting there by moving freight

*We've all got places to go. Metro works across the region to help people and goods get there safely, affordably and reliably.*

### **Freight and our quality of life**

Our region is a great place to live, work and play, and we've worked hard to keep it that way. From the grocery truck at the supermarket to the local delivery of an online purchase at home, goods movement is important to all the region's residents. Much of our prosperity is directly tied to the investments we make in our regional freight infrastructure by making consumer goods readily available to us, providing air, ship, rail and road systems that help our businesses efficiently reach global and domestic marketplaces, and developing high-quality regional jobs.

### **Why create a freight strategy?**

The Portland metropolitan region is the trade and transportation gateway for Oregon and provides market access for many southwest Washington businesses.

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.

Updating the Regional Freight Plan adopted in 2010, the new strategy will provide a coordinated vision and approach for enhancing freight and goods movement and prioritizing freight investments based on clear priorities.

### **Promoting freight movement**

Increased transportation capacity, efficiency, flexibility and travel time reliability reduce transportation costs for firms and individuals. An air, ship, rail and road system, with



connections between modes, also means more competitive shipping rates for our local businesses. By increasing productivity, our investments increase the greater Portland region's ability to compete in the global marketplace. That advantage facilitates retention or expansion of existing businesses, supports homegrown startups and attracts new businesses to the region.

### **What will be included?**

The strategy will serve as the freight component of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan 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 greater Portland region.

The regional freight strategy will comprise 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- and long-term actions to advance implementation of the strategy over the next 25 years.

## The future of freight

Our economic future depends on maintaining the region's historic preeminence as a goods movement and industrial hub. Investment in smart, strategic and environmentally sustainable freight system improvements now can help the region secure not only its economic future by increasing its share of family wage jobs but also support development of a green economy that is a trademark of the greater Portland area.

The region's goods movement system must improve and adapt if the region is to maintain its economic competitiveness in the global economy and its status as an international freight gateway. Immediate action is required to meet the economic opportunities of the 21st century.

### Voices from around the region

*How important is freight movement to our region's economic prosperity? Residents emphasize the value of keeping our freight network moving.*

“Congestion in [the Central Eastside Industrial District] is getting very bad, and is hampering economic growth and success. Improving quicker and safer interactions between economic producers (light industrial and commercial) and office jobs and residents and people who are accessing the stores and restaurants in the area.” – *Survey response, October 2016*

“Quick and safe transportation of economic goods is extremely important to the economic sustainability of Portland.” – *Survey response, October 2016*

“Simple and foundational improvements to support our freight network will benefit both commercial activities and community safety by allowing efficient joint use of our street network.” – *Survey response, October 2016*

“We need to try new ways to keep freight in this important industrial corridor [Columbia corridor] moving.” – *Survey response, October 2016*

