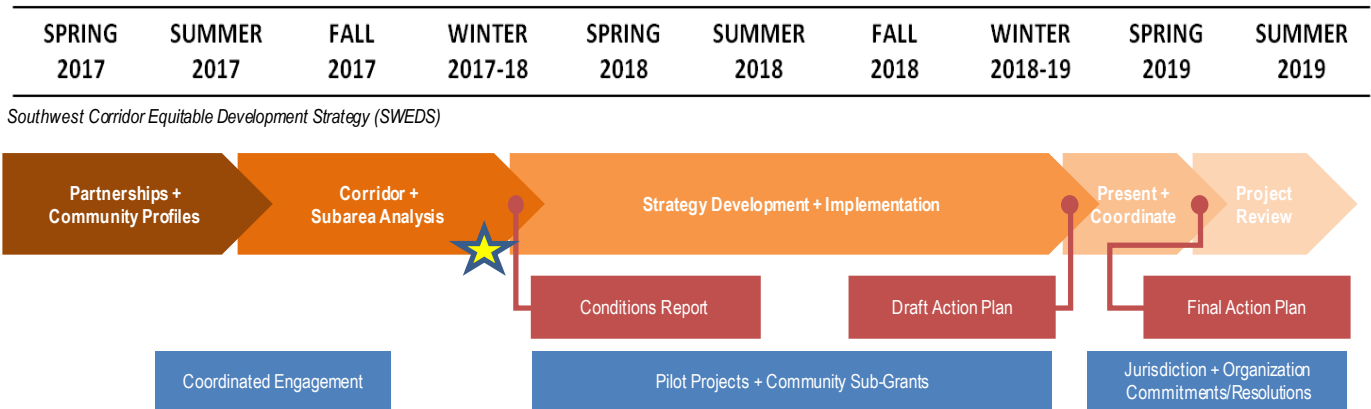


Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy

January 25, 2017 update



Project Background

The Southwest Corridor Plan is a collaborative initiative with engaged local leaders working to find solutions to limited transit service, congested roadways, unreliable travel, and unsafe conditions for people moving within and between local communities. The Plan envisions a livable, affordable, economically thriving community with reliable and safe transportation options for every resident and commuter. Project partners have adopted a Shared Investment Strategy that includes a range of transportation, land use, social and economic development solutions to meet the needs of what is now the fastest growing part of the Portland Metro region. The construction of a new Light Rail Extension from Downtown Portland to Tualatin was identified as one of the primary strategies to address transportation needs and expand opportunities for residents who live, work and visit within the corridor, and the greater Portland Metro Region.

With this vision in mind, the Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy strives to ensure that individuals and families continue to live, work and thrive in the Southwest Corridor as we invest in such a major transportation project like light rail. This means making sure SW Corridor neighborhoods have:

- different choices for where to live for people of all incomes
- a range of jobs for people of all backgrounds
- learning opportunities that prepare people for those jobs
- wages that support people’s desire to live and work in the corridor.

Project Oversight Committee:

A Project Oversight Committee, made up of various public/private/non-profit partners from the Southwest Corridor provides advice to Metro and project partner staff. This committee advises staff on implementing the work and allocating resources to future Pilot Projects. To date, the Project Oversight Committee has met four times, focusing on:

- Establishing a set of Equitable Development Principles (See below) to guide future work on a SW Corridor Equitable Development Strategy. The Principles will feed into the creation of evaluation metrics and inform the selection of future pilot implementation projects.

- Understanding how various project partners undertake equitable development, with a focus on workforce development, affordable housing, and alternative financing efforts. The purpose of this effort is to educate partners about implementation opportunities that may exist within the corridor.
- Develop a process for selection of Pilot Projects that will allow for a 12 month implementation period. The outcomes of these Pilot Projects will help inform the final Equitable Development Strategy for the corridor.
- Utilize previous household profiles to identify and engage with real households in the corridor. This is being done to highlight the impacts and opportunities that the Light Rail investment poses, as well as test how various policies and strategies will alleviate those impacts.

Equitable Development Goals:

The following equitable development goals have been established to target key issues project partners are interested in measuring as part of the conditions report, clarify components of social equity the project focuses on as we proceed with coordinated engagement efforts, guides what targets are established for the final Strategy and Action Plan, and provides a rationale for establishing jurisdiction and organizational endorsements and commitments.

1. Advance economic opportunity & build community capacity for wealth creation
2. Confront residential & business displacement
3. Reduce disparities & improve conditions for affected people
4. Preserve & expand affordable housing
5. Promote transportation mobility & connectivity
6. Develop healthy & safe communities
7. Expand the breadth & depth of influence among affected people

The Project Oversight Committee is supported by two advisory groups:

- Equity & Housing Advisory Group – Equity and housing advocates and providers currently working to support a Metro-awarded grant for affordable housing targets in SW Portland and pre-development tasks for two affordable housing sites in Tigard. The group has recently begun to focus on programmatic and funding opportunities identified through their current grant process. The group will transition out of their work on the Metro grant in mid-Spring 2018, to focus on larger, corridor-wide strategies around affordable housing preservation/development and strategies to support tenants and homeowners throughout the corridor.
- Business & Workforce Advisory Group – Participants are discussing how the Strategy can best support business and workforce activities in the corridor, build coordination among partner initiatives and programs, and discussed prospective targets that will inform whether the project is advancing on the Equitable Development Principles. These targets address business support services and stabilization activities; targeted job training and workforce support services, activities to improve SDMWBE business representation; activities to support station or district-level economic partnerships and agreements; and coordinated approaches to alternative finance lending and community investment to capture the value of the light rail and associated investments and support local wealth creation. Partners are developing Pilot Project proposals that align with project goals and help advance on one or more of the established targets. Next steps include supporting pilot project selection, scope development, and implementation as well as reviewing the final conditions report and corridor-wide quality of life index.

Equitable Development Pilot Projects:

Equitable Development Pilot Projects are intended to inform this Strategy while supporting community-driven initiatives that prepare communities for the changes and opportunities light rail and other investments would bring to the SW Corridor. Funds will target a mix of projects within and across two sub-categories aligned with priorities of the SWEDS advisory groups. Applicants will be asked to describe how the project could make communities more prepared for the changes and/or opportunities SW Corridor investments would bring and how the project can serve as a model for wider applications in the region, while advancing on a specific set of Equitable Development Principles. Proposals will be selected in late March, scoped out and contracted out in late April, with project activities initiating in July 2018. Final project deliverables, invoicing, and a final report will be completed within a 12 month timeframe ending in July 2019.