

# 2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



**2,900** survey  
submissions

**10,613** online  
comments

**10** presentation  
responses

**19** letters and  
emails

**172,000** social  
media views

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## What we heard

*From Jan. 15 to Feb. 17, Metro asked residents and businesses of the greater Portland region for their thoughts to help refine the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan project lists.*

There were four strategies used to engage residents and businesses:

- an **online survey** that focused on asking participants how they would prioritize outcomes and rate strategies to get to those outcomes
- a **community leaders' forum**, bringing together community representatives from Metro's advisory committees and other community leaders to discuss the evaluation key takeaways
- **Metro Councilor briefings** to business and community groups
- The **project website and materials**, such as the key takeaways document and an interactive map of projects, allowing for more detailed feedback via letter or email.

### Summary of what we heard

One overarching theme heard throughout the engagement period is the plan is falling short in accomplishing the outcomes our region wants to see. People want investments in better street design to improve safety, more frequent MAX and bus service to address system reliability, and better walk and bike connections to have more travel options for going to work, school or shopping. Metro staff also heard that more investment in freight is needed to reliably and safely get goods to market.

Another theme heard is direction to focus investments equitably to ensure that communities of color and other historically marginalized communities don't continue to fall behind the rest of our region. This means prioritizing investments in communities that have been underserved and targeting areas where there are inadequate and unreliable transportation options. People recognize that improving access is an important step to make sure all people in our region have opportunities to experience our region's quality of life.

# MetroQuest Survey

## What we heard

“Every neighborhood should be well served by transit, now and in the future, regardless of who lives there today or tomorrow.”

### Southeast Portland resident

“If we cannot maintain what we’ve got, why build more? Preventive maintenance is as important as ‘fixing potholes’ and should not be neglected.”

### Beaverton resident

“I live in Gladstone and work in west Beaverton where it takes me twice as long to get to and from work via TriMet because they do not have any direct routes.”

### Gladstone resident

From Jan. 15 to Feb. 17, Metro hosted an online comment opportunity in support of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan. The online survey asked participants two questions:

- How can we best improve our region’s transportation system over the next 10 years? Select your top 5 most important outcomes.
- For each of the top 5 priorities, what strategies will best help get us there?

Participants were asked to select and rank their top five most important outcomes from a list of eight. The outcomes were presented in random order for each user. A higher score in the chart below reflects a higher ranking by participants.

In addition to the questions above, participants were also asked about quality of life, commute patterns, history of racism in our region’s transportation investments and thoughts on increasing fees and taxes to realize the region’s shared vision for our transportation system. Over 73% of total respondents strongly or somewhat support increasing fees and taxes to fund priorities they feel are important, the majority of support coming from Multnomah County residents.

We heard from more than 2,900 people across the region. Regionwide, the top three priorities included safety, system reliability and travel options. On the county level, prioritized outcomes slightly differed. A full summary is expected in mid-March.

## Which outcomes should the region prioritize?



## Top strategies to get to priority outcomes

After prioritizing outcomes, participants were asked to identify which strategies best achieved those outcomes. Below are the top three strategies for the three highest priority outcomes.

### Safety

- Enhance street design, such as reducing speeds and putting in protected crosswalks
- Improve walk and bike connections by completing sidewalks and bikeways and increasing separation from traffic
- Enhance transit stops with safe crossings and improved lighting

### System reliability

- Improve transit service with more frequent bus and MAX
- Expand freeways and streets and improve street connections
- Technology improvements | Housing close to transit (*tied*)

### Travel options

- Improve transit service with more frequent bus and MAX
- Improve walk and bike connections by completing sidewalks and bikeways and increasing separation from traffic
- Enhance street design, such as reducing speeds and putting in protected crosswalks

## Community Leaders' Forum

On Jan. 19, 27 community leaders voiced their opinions and shared their thoughts about which outcomes they want to see prioritized in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan. Leaders also heard updates from staff about the Southwest Corridor light rail project and equitable development strategy and other efforts around parks and nature, garbage and recycling, affordable housing and transportation.

### Three main high-level takeaways

- Lead with equity - if you address it, you get other desired outcomes.
- Explicitly articulate who will benefit from these outcomes.
- Better explain how the needs of people will be met by connecting equity to housing, jobs and transportation.

Many leaders voiced their dissatisfaction that communities of color and other historically marginalized communities are seeing less access to jobs and community places than the region as a whole in the first ten years of the plan.

### Additional comments and themes

- Perspectives of aging populations, people with disabilities and youth need to be reflected in these conversations, along with how they are being impacted by these investments.
- Profiling of black residents and low-income community members on transit needs to be addressed.
- The intersection of value pricing and affordability needs to be addressed. With limits on how the state can use the funds, mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that benefits and burdens are distributed equitably.



### What we heard from community leaders

"The region has come a long way from including equity to moving towards embedding equity [in programs and projects]. I would like to see us moving from embedding equity into prioritizing equity."

**Emily Lai**

*Momentum Alliance*

"If they don't feel safe, people won't want to take public transit."

**Carolyn Anderson**

*Transit rider*

"[Economic prosperity] seems to be the most important thing because that's where we put it. We need to put people first... if we focus on what people need first, all of the other things will fall into place naturally

**Gloria Pinzon**

*Community advocate*



If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

**So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.**

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

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## Metro Councilor briefings

As part of the public comment opportunity, the Metro Council engaged several business and community organizations to provide a preview of initial evaluation of the project lists and key takeaways. Some of the feedback heard is reflected below.

- Our region’s transportation system must be accessible to everyone.
- We need more bus service in East Portland and other areas where underserved communities live.
- Concern that freight projects make up a small portion of the cost of the entire plan.
- Ensure that benefits and burdens of congestion pricing are distributed equitably.
- Improve biking and walking access to transit.

## Project Website and Materials

Staff developed several materials to communicate the results of the initial evaluation and summarize the key takeaways. An eight-page discussion guide provided an overview of the plan, a summary of the project list, and key takeaways on how the plan will perform based on staff analysis. The materials were posted on the project website with an invitation to send more detailed feedback via letter or email.

Additionally, staff created an online interactive map to provide more information on specific projects, including estimated cost, primary purpose, and anticipated timing of completion, among other categories. All the materials and this map are available at [oregonmetro.gov/2018projects](http://oregonmetro.gov/2018projects).



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