

Foreword: from the Metro Council President



These are remarkable and challenging times for the greater Portland region. We continue to attract new residents, jobs and industries. Our communities are becoming more culturally diverse, bringing rich cultural activity to neighborhoods. A new generation is growing to adulthood as others move toward retirement. Advances in technology are changing how we connect, how we work, and increasingly, how we travel, move goods and provide services. As population increases in the region, we find ourselves facing new challenges—regionally and globally—and are beginning to recognize longstanding issues facing

communities that have been marginalized. These changes and challenges impact how we use and what we expect from our transportation system.

Every resident and business – those with roots in the region that run generations deep to new residents – have a stake in our system of highways, roads, bridges, sidewalks, bikeways and transit and freight routes. This Regional Transportation Plan is accountable to each of them. Through the update of this plan we have built new partnerships to bring new voices to the process and focused our efforts to make more near-term progress on these regional priorities – equity, safety, travel options and congestion.

We are facing new and longstanding challenges

The greater Portland region is facing global and regional challenges. As more and more people come to our region to enjoy the things that have contributed to our high quality of life, that high quality of life is at risk. Congestion, maintenance needs and safety issues are expected to grow as a half-million more people join the region by 2040.

At the same time, the climate is changing, and we need to continue to work for clean air and clean water. Systemic inequities mean that communities have not equally benefited from public policy and investments, and some perspectives have long been ignored or actively suppressed. The economy is changing, and the pace of technology increasing. Congestion is at an all-time

2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Learn more about the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and opportunities to provide feedback on the draft plan from June 29 through Aug. 13 at oregonmetro.gov/rtp.



The Metro Council consists of a president, elected regionwide, and six councilors who are elected by district every four years in nonpartisan races. The council works with community leaders and constituents across city and county boundaries to shape the future of the greater Portland region.

The Metro Council shares decision-making authority over regional transportation planning and policies with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, or JPACT, which comprises 17 members that serve as elected officials or representatives of transportation agencies across the region.

high on our system – a reflection of the pace at which people have moved here as well as where people live relative to where they work. In 2015, only one-third of workers in the region lived and worked in the same city.

Meanwhile, the funding gap between the needs of a growing region and an aging system of highways, transit, roads and bridges and an incomplete network of sidewalks, bikeways and transit routes continues to worsen. We need a plan that serves our growing and changing region – one that anticipates population and employment growth, our region’s changing demographics (including an aging population), the shifting nature of work, new transportation technologies and services, the impacts of pollution and climate change.

We have a vision for our future – and for how our transportation system will work

The plan sets out a vision that in the 21st century, our region has a continuously improving economy and shared quality of life with the foundation of a safe, reliable, healthy and affordable transportation system. A system that is well-maintained, environmentally responsible, efficiently moves products to market, and connects all people to the education and work opportunities they need to thrive and prosper.

More than \$42 billion is planned to be invested in the region’s transportation system over the next 25 years to serve our future population of over 2 million people. This Regional Transportation Plan identifies current and future transportation needs, priority investments to meet those needs, and federal, state, regional and local funding the region expects to have available through 2040. It lays out nearly \$27 billion in funding for maintenance, preservation, and operations of the transportation system. \$15 billion is planned for capital projects that optimize and expand the region’s highway and transit systems, improve access to freight destinations, complete gaps in biking and walking connections and regional trails that provide important access to transit, downtowns, schools, services and other community destinations.

The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan provides us an opportunity to move toward that vision

Decades of thinking ahead and implementing bold strategies to meet the transportation challenges of the 20th century has put the greater Portland region ahead of the curve. With a focus on a compact urban area, growth in town centers and along major roadways, efficient transit and options for

biking, walking and busing, the region has not dealt with the same crisis of gridlocked traffic, dependence on driving and freight delays of other growing regions. However, as our growth continues, we have to leverage and build upon our previous investments to ensure that new investments advance more equitable outcomes. Through this we can avoid a cresting dilemma like those faced by places like Los Angeles, Seattle and the Bay Area. This Regional Transportation Plan update builds on the tradition of multimodal investment and creative thinking to create partnerships that develop innovative and equitable solutions to the challenges we currently face now and in the future.

Delivering outcomes to build public trust

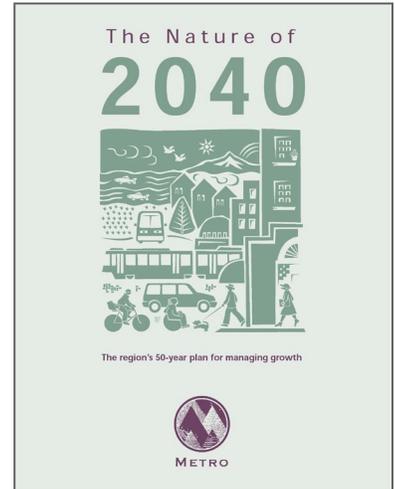
On behalf of the Metro Council, I invite you to review the Draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and supporting draft strategies for safety, transit, freight, and emerging technology that have been developed over the past 3 years. Together they represent the choices that we need to create an equitable transportation system that supports a high quality of life, a prosperous economy and a protected environment. I hope you agree that the planned investments demonstrate a wise use of resources and, if we choose to execute them, will result in a safe, reliable, healthy and affordable transportation system for all communities.

While the Draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and supporting strategies reflect an extensive amount of input and feedback already, these drafts will inform public engagement through the fall of 2018. The feedback received from residents, businesses, community organizations, jurisdictional partners and others will be incorporated into a final version of the Plan, which will be considered by the Metro Policy Advisory Committee and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation in October prior to being submitted to the Metro Council for approval in December.

We look forward to hearing what you think!



Metro Council President Hughes



Find out about the 2040 Growth Concept, A land use and transportation strategy for building healthy, equitable communities and a strong economy, at oregonmetro.gov/2040.



The engagement activities produced more than 18,000 touch points with regional partners, community and business leaders and residents of the region to inform development of the draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan.