

# Chapter 2

## Transportation

## Chapter 2 Regional Framework Plan

### Introduction

In 1992, the region's voters approved a charter for Metro that formally gave responsibility for regional land use planning to the agency, and requires adoption of a Regional Framework Plan that integrates land use, transportation and other regional planning mandates. The combined policies of this framework plan establish a new framework for planning in the region by linking land use and transportation plans. Fundamental to this plan is a transportation system that integrates goods and people movement with the surrounding land uses.

This chapter of the Regional Framework Plan presents the overall policy framework for the specific transportation goals, objectives and actions contained in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). It also sets a direction for future transportation planning and decision-making by the Metro Council and the implementing agencies, counties and cities.

The policies aim to implement the 2040 Growth Concept and:

- Protect the economic health and livability of the region.
- Improve the safety of the transportation system.
- Provide a transportation system that is efficient and cost-effective, investing our limited resources wisely.
- Provide access to more and better choices for travel in this region and serve special access needs for all people, including youth, elderly and disabled.
- Provide adequate levels of mobility for people and goods within the region.
- Protect air and water quality and promote energy conservation.
- Provide transportation facilities that support a balance of jobs and housing.
- Limit dependence on any single mode of travel and increase the use of transit, bicycling, walking and carpooling and vanpooling.
- Provide for the movement of people and goods through an interconnected system of highway, air, marine and rail systems, including passenger and freight intermodal facilities and air and water terminals.
- Integrate land use, automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, freight and public transportation needs in regional and local street designs.
- Use transportation demand management and system management strategies.
- Limit the impact of urban travel on rural land through use of green corridors.

### GOAL 1: Vibrant Communities

The greater Portland region is a great and affordable place to live, work and play where people can easily and safely reach jobs, schools, shopping, services, and recreational opportunities from their home by walking, biking, transit, shared trip or driving.

- **Objective 1.1: 2040 Growth Concept Implementation** - Focus growth and transportation investment in designated 2040 growth areas (the Portland central city, regional and town centers, corridors, main streets, and employment and industrial areas).

- **Objective 1.2: Walkable Communities** - Increase the share of households in walkable, mixed-use areas served by current and planned frequent transit service.
- **Objective 1.3: Affordable Location-Efficient Housing Choices** - Increase the number and diversity of regulated affordable housing units within walking distance of current and planned frequent transit service.
- **Objective 1.4: Access to Community Places<sup>1</sup>** - Increase the number and variety of community places that households, especially households in historically marginalized communities, can reach within a reasonable travel time for all modes of travel.

## GOAL 2: Shared Prosperity

People have access to jobs, goods and services and businesses have access to workers, goods and markets in a diverse, inclusive, innovative, sustainable and strong economy that equitably benefits all the people and businesses of the greater Portland region.

- **Objective 2.1: Connected Region** - Build an integrated system of throughways, arterial streets, freight routes and intermodal facilities, transit services and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, with efficient connections between modes that provide access to jobs, markets and community places within and beyond the region.
- **Objective 2.2: Access to Industry and Freight Intermodal Facilities** - Increase access to industry and freight intermodal facilities by a reliable and seamless freight transportation system that includes air cargo, pipeline, trucking, rail, and marine services to facilitate efficient and competitive shipping choices for goods movement in, to and from the region.
- **Objective 2.3: Access to Jobs and Talent** - Attract new businesses and family-wage jobs and retain those that are already located in the region while increasing the number and variety of jobs that households can reach within a reasonable travel time.
- **Objective 2.4: Transportation and Housing Affordability** - Reduce the share of income that households in the region spend on transportation to lower overall household spending on transportation and housing.

## GOAL 3: Transportation Choices

People throughout the region have safe, convenient, healthy and affordable options that connect them to jobs, school, services, and community places, support active living and reduce transportation-related pollution.

- **Objective 3.1: Travel Choices** - Plan communities and design and manage the transportation system to increase the proportion of trips made by walking, bicycling, shared rides and use of transit and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- **Objective 3.2: Active Transportation System Completion** - Complete all gaps in regional bicycle and pedestrian networks.
- **Objective 3.3: Access to Transit** - Increase household and job access to current and planned frequent transit service.

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<sup>1</sup> Community places are defined as key local destinations such as schools, libraries, grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals and other medical facilities, general stores, parks, greenspaces, and other places that provide key services and/or daily needs.

- **Objective 3.4: Access to Active Travel Options** - Increase household and job access to planned regional bike and walk networks.

#### **GOAL 4: Reliability and Efficiency**

The transportation system is managed and optimized to ease congestion, and people and businesses are able to safely, reliably and efficiently reach their destinations by a variety of travel options.

- **Objective 4.1: Regional Mobility** - Maintain reasonable person-trip and freight mobility and reliable travel times for all modes in the region's mobility corridors, consistent with the designated modal functions of each facility and planned transit service within the corridor.
- **Objective 4.2: Travel Management - Increase** the use of real-time data and decision-making systems to actively manage transit, freight, arterial and throughway corridors.
- **Objective 4.3: Travel Information** - Increase the number of travelers, households and businesses with access to real-time comprehensive, integrated, and universally accessible travel information.
- **Objective 4.4: Incident Management** - Reduce incident clearance times on the region's transit, arterial and throughway networks through improved traffic incident detection and response.
- **Objective 4.5: Demand Management** - Increase the number of households and businesses with access to outreach, education, incentives and other tools that increase shared trips and use of travel options.
- **Objective 4.6: Pricing** - Expand the use of pricing strategies to manage vehicle congestion and encourage shared trips and use of transit.
- **Objective 4.7: Parking Management** - Manage the supply and price of parking in order to increase shared trips and use of travel options and to support efficient use of urban land.

#### **GOAL 5: Safety and Security**

People's lives are saved, crashes are avoided and people and goods are safe and secure when traveling in the region.

- **Objective 5.1: Transportation Safety** - Eliminate fatal and severe injury crashes for all modes of travel.
- **Objective 5.2: Transportation Security** - Reduce the vulnerability of the public and critical passenger and freight transportation infrastructure to crime and terrorism.
- **Objective 5.3: Preparedness and Resiliency** - Reduce the vulnerability of regional transportation infrastructure to natural disasters, climate change and hazardous incidents.

## **GOAL 6: Healthy Environment**

The greater Portland region's biological, water, historic and cultural resources are protected and preserved.

- **Objective 6.1: Biological and Water Resources** - Protect fish and wildlife habitat and water resources from the negative impacts of transportation.
- **Objective 6.2: Historic and Cultural Resources** - Protect historic and cultural resources from the negative impacts of transportation.
- **Objective 6.3: Green Infrastructure** - Integrate green infrastructure strategies in transportation planning and design to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- **Objective 6.4: Light pollution** - Minimize unnecessary light pollution to avoid harm to human health, farms and wildlife, increase safety and improve visibility of the night sky.
- **Objective 6.5: Habitat Connectivity** - Improve wildlife and habitat connectivity in transportation planning and design to avoid, minimize and mitigate barriers resulting from new and existing transportation infrastructure.

## **GOAL 7: Healthy People**

People enjoy safe, comfortable and convenient travel options that support active living and increased physical activity, and transportation-related pollution that negatively impacts public health are minimized.

- **Objective 7.1: Active Living** - Improve public health by providing safe, comfortable and convenient transportation options that support active living and physical activity to meet daily needs and access services.
- **Objective 7.2: Clean Air** - Reduce transportation-related air pollutants, including criteria pollutants and air toxics emissions.
- **Objective 7.3: Other Pollution Impacts** - Minimize air, water, noise, light and other transportation-related pollution health impacts.

## **GOAL 8: Climate Leadership**

The health and prosperity of people living in the greater Portland region are improved and the impacts of climate change are minimized as a result of reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Objective 8.1: Climate Smart Strategy Implementation** - Implement policies, investments and actions identified in the adopted Climate Smart Strategy, including coordinating land use and transportation; making transit convenient, frequent, accessible and affordable; making biking and walking safe and convenient; and managing parking and travel demand.
- **Objective 8.2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction** - Meet adopted targets for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Objective 8.3: Vehicle Miles Traveled** - Reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita.
- **Objective 8.4: Low and Zero Emissions Vehicles** - Support state efforts to transition Oregon to cleaner, low carbon fuels and increase the adoption of more fuel-efficient vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicles, including electric and hydrogen vehicles.

- **Objective 8.5: Energy Conservation** - Reduce transportation-related consumption of energy and reliance on sources of energy derived from petroleum and gasoline.
- **Objective 8.6: Green Infrastructure** - Promote green infrastructure that benefits both climate and other environmental objectives, including improved stormwater management and wildlife habitat.

### **GOAL 9: Equitable Transportation**

The transportation-related disparities and barriers experienced by historically marginalized communities, particularly communities of color, are eliminated.

- **Objective 9.1: Transportation Equity** - Eliminate disparities related to access, safety, affordability and health outcomes experienced by people of color and other historically marginalized communities.
- **Objective 9.2: Barrier Free Transportation** - Eliminate barriers that people of color, low income people, youth, older adults, people with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities face to meeting their travel needs.

### **GOAL 10: Fiscal Stewardship**

Regional transportation planning and investment decisions provide the best return on public investments.

- **Objective 10.1: Infrastructure Condition** - Plan, build and maintain regional transportation assets to maximize their useful life, minimize project construction and maintenance costs and eliminate maintenance backlogs.
- **Objective 10.2: Sustainable Funding** - Develop new revenue sources to prepare for increased demand for travel on the transportation system as our region grows.

### **GOAL 11: Transparency and Accountability**

Regional transportation decisions are open and transparent and distribute the benefits and burdens of our investments in an equitable manner.

- **Objective 11.1: Meaningful Public and Stakeholder Engagement** - Engage more and a wider diversity people in providing input at all levels of decision-making for developing and implementing the plan, particularly people of color, English language learners, people with low income and other historically marginalized communities.
- **Objective 11.2: Performance-Based Planning** - Make transportation investment decisions using a performance-based planning approach that is aligned with the RTP goals and supported by meaningful public engagement, multimodal data and analysis.
- **Objective 11.3: Coordination and Cooperation** - Improve coordination and cooperation among the owners and operators of the region's transportation system.