



# Tualatin Valley Highway HOPE grant

## Project overview

*Oregon Highway 8, TV Highway, is located in Washington County. It is a vital transportation connector that serves regional and town centers in Beaverton, Aloha, Hillsboro, Cornelius and Forest Grove.*

Supported by a Federal Transit Administration HOPE (Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone) grant, this project will complete planning and design for public transit improvements on TV Hwy. Plans will build upon the bus rapid transit component of the TV Highway project proposed in the 2020 Get Moving transportation funding measure. It will also support the creation of a community-led equitable development strategy to counteract gentrification, as recommended in the measure.

### **Bus rapid transit**

The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identified this corridor for future high capacity transit. This grant will move that vision forward by designing a new bus rapid transit system for TV Highway.

Includes a study of electric buses to reduce the number of diesel vehicles regularly traveling through the corridor.

**Purpose:** Improve transit and safety in the corridor.

**Participation:** Regional, county and city planners together with ODOT, TriMet and the community.

**Approval:** The TV Hwy Steering Committee composed of community members and managers or elected officials representing ODOT, TriMet, Metro, Washington County, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Cornelius and Forest Grove.



### **Equitable development strategy**

The grant will produce an Equitable Development Strategy to ensure that broader community economic and housing development needs are reflected in the final project concept. It will seek to support a coalition of advocates, community representatives, funders, housing and service providers ready to participate in ongoing corridor improvement efforts. This human infrastructure component is key to ensuring that existing residents and future low-income resident's needs are integrated into any long-term corridor improvements.

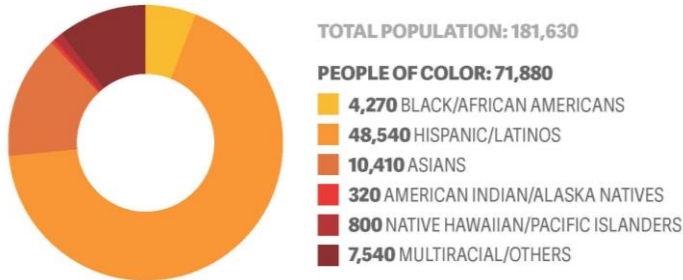
**Purpose:** Increase meaningful involvement in transportation planning and identify ways to counteract the forces of gentrification that may accompany transportation investments.

**Participation:** The community along this corridor and organizations who represent them.

**Approval:** The Equitable Development Coalition, a group of community leaders, community-based organizations, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, affordable housing providers, residents and businesses.

## Tualatin Valley Highway today

This corridor is home to some of the region's most racially and ethnically diverse communities – with particularly large populations of Hispanic and Asian residents. The median income along the corridor varies greatly, but is slightly less overall than the regional median. Poverty rates are slightly higher, with areas such as west Hillsboro seeing poverty rates as high as 49%.



The overall poverty rate of residents is slightly higher than the regional average, but many people in the corridor are living close to the poverty line. 40 percent of the population in census block groups within a half-mile of TV Highway are under 200 percent of the poverty line.

There are over 30,000 jobs in this area, but 54 percent pay less than \$40,000 per year.

**Mobility** This corridor has less access to jobs than much of the region, and poorer transit access to major employers. However, commute burdens are on par with other parts of the region. Vehicle ownership rates are lower than the regional median, with significantly lower ownership rates in some areas.

**Housing** While median rents are slightly lower than the regional median, rates of cost-burden (measured as percent of income required for housing costs) are on par with the region and many low-income communities of color who live along the corridor are cost-burdened at much higher rates – for example, in west Hillsboro, where 76% of renters are cost-burdened.

**Displacement indicators** At the corridor level, displacement indicators demonstrate a mix of signals. Property values, incomes and racial diversity are increasing, though less quickly than the regional median. In some areas signals are clearer – for example, in west Hillsboro, there has been a loss in people of color by 5% to 20% between 2000 and 2017 and growth in income of up to 40%.

## TV Highway Corridor

Figures in RED represent average or median conditions in the corridor.

These are compared with REGIONAL AVERAGES AND MEDIANS IN GRAY ITALIC.

