

2023 Regional Transportation Plan

Community leaders' forum summary October 13, 2022

Objective: For community leaders to have the information they need to effectively participate in the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and share information and engage with their communities. The forum included information from Metro staff on the following topics:

- the RTP process and the role of the RTP in regional transportation decisions
- the process for developing the draft RTP project list
- how to find information about planned projects using the 2018 RTP list
- when and how to provide input on the draft project lists



Introduction

Metro is updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The plan is a tool that guides investments in all forms of travel – transit, bicycle, walking, motor vehicle and goods movement throughout greater Portland. During Phase 3 of the 2023 RTP, Metro hosted the second community leaders' forum. At the first forum, community leaders generally agreed that the 2018 RTP priorities of equity, safety, climate, and congestion management remained important priorities for the 2023 RTP. Participants emphasized that communities are interested in the strategies and projects that effectively implement those priorities.

Metro staff also heard the community interest in understanding how the priorities are implemented in projects and programs in the RTP. On October 13, 2022, Metro hosted a two-hour virtual community leaders' forum focused on the development of the RTP project list and how community partners can give input early in the process. Metro invited representatives from culturally specific, environmental-justice and transportation-focused community-based organizations to participate in the forum. Several organizations could not attend

but requested a recording of the forum. Eight people participated in the forum, representing the following organizations:

- 1,000 Friends of Oregon
- Getting There Together Coalition
- Next Up
- OPAL
- The Street Trust
- WashCo Rising
- Westside Transportation Alliance
- Unite Oregon

This document summarizes the information presented at the forum and the questions and comments of the attendees. The RTP project team responded to input from participants as they developed the timeline and the policy framework for the call for projects.

The forum started with introductions with time for participants to discuss the interests of their organizations and the transportation challenges and opportunities in the region. The RTP project team presented about the overall RTP process, the updated draft vision and goals and the call for projects process. The project team also shared the [interactive 2018 RTP project map](#) and [spreadsheet](#). The map and list of projects can be used by community leaders and the public to see what

transportation investments are currently included in the plan to begin determining what updates they would like to see in the 2023 RTP. (See Attachment A for the agenda and attachment B for the presentations.)

Summary of input

As participants discussed their interest in the RTP, they provided a variety of insights. Some of this input was focused on the planning process while other feedback focused on transportation challenges and opportunities in communities across greater Portland.

Process: Outcomes-driven

Participants suggested that the RTP can bring the region together to work toward desired outcomes.

- The Regional Transportation Plan projects should advance the outcomes that serve their communities, who are often experiencing economic hardship, less access to transportation, and displacement. A couple of participants asked how the projects and programs in the transportation funding measure, that their organizations worked hard to advance, would be advanced in the RTP.
- The RTP should help to facilitate a common vision for growth and priorities in the region. There are diverging views of the region's growth and priorities, and the RTP provides an opportunity to find a path forward. Examples of policy conversations where there are divergent views include: mega-projects, congestion pricing and tolling and CHIPS task force's goal to expand technology production lands in Washington County.

Process: Inclusive engagement

Participants provided insights into approaches for engagement that involves Black, Indigenous and people of color and other under-represented communities.

- Education is an important aspect of

engagement and information needs to be accessible and digestible.

- Communities need more information on how transportation agencies and local jurisdictions involve community in the development of their RTP project lists.
- More youth need to be involved in transportation planning and policy conversations especially related to transit.
- Metro and counties need to better engage small businesses in transportation planning. Small businesses are cornerstones of communities, economies and families.
- Local jurisdictions need to involve under-represented community members and need to provide stipends for participation on advisory committees. Community members cannot be expected to volunteer their time; they need to be respected and valued for their time.
- Make sure decision-making is not just about people in Portland and Multnomah County but also across the region and state.

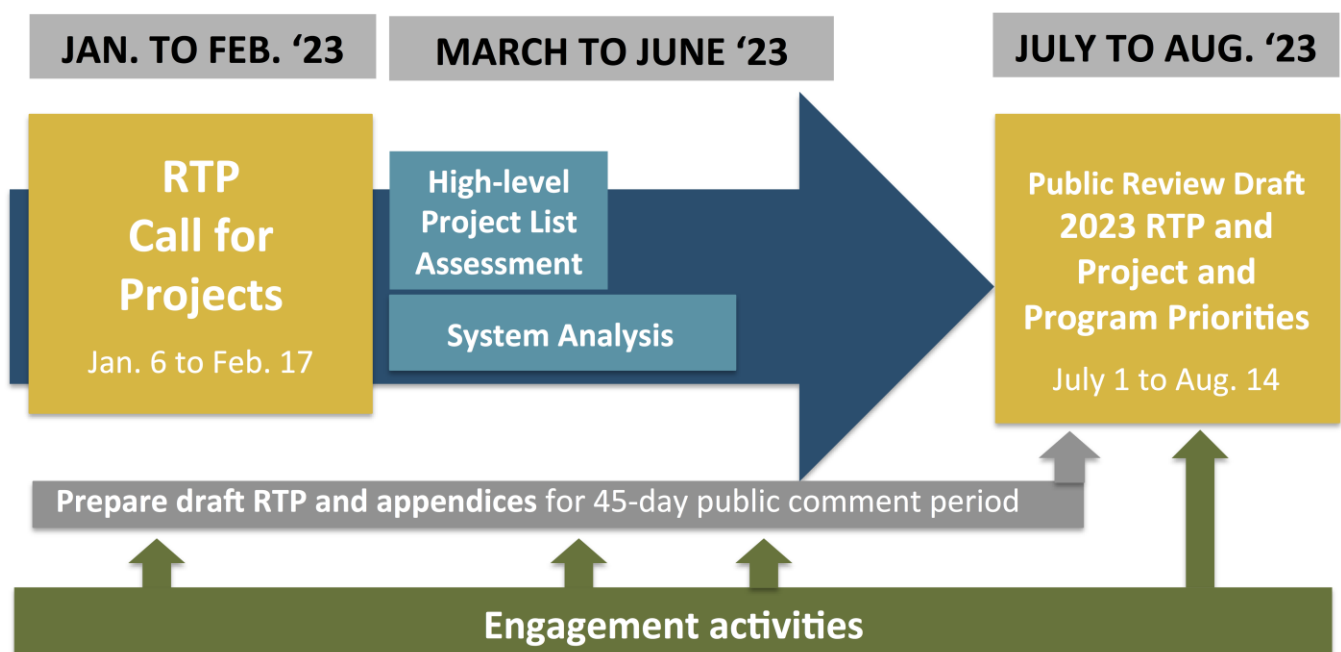
Transportation challenges/opportunities

Participants provided perspective on the transportation issues and opportunities that are most important to community members

- Enhancing transit stops and stations and ensuring those enhancements reflect the needs of the community, for example the proposed change in the Hollywood transit station does not meet some communities' needs.
- Major infrastructure investments, like what is planned on SW Corridor, are both opportunities and challenges. Ensure the communities living in these areas continue to stay there and at the same time benefit from the developments. Interest in seeing the SW Corridor Equitable Development Strategy implemented.

- Saying that resources such as housing, food, health care and job opportunities are available is not enough. People need to be able to get to them in a timely and dignified matter. This is transportation.
- Consider the impacts new policies have on people's lives. These policies are impacting people who are already impacted. For example, when parking minimums are removed and transit is not in-place, people who need to drive and are living in gentrifying areas cannot park their cars
- Interest in investments on urban arterials that make those highways safer places for our communities.
- Many people want to get out of their cars and take transit or bike. But people report that they do not feel there are safe routes for biking and/or that transit takes too long, doesn't come close enough or is not on the right schedule.

Next steps and opportunities for input for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan



Next steps and opportunities for input for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan

During the past year, the RTP process focused on updating the region's vision and goals for the transportation system, understanding the region's transportation challenges and priorities for investment, documenting in the amount of funding expected to be available to pay for the region's transportation needs.

November to December 2022: Metro Council, regional advisory committees and stakeholders discuss and agree to the 2023 RTP policy framework that guides the update of the projects and programs in the RTP.

- **Opportunity for input:** In November and December, county transportation coordinating committees and Portland advisory committees will be weighing in on the policy framework and the update to the projects and programs.
- **Opportunity for input:** December 15 the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council will take action on the proposed policy framework.

January 6 to February 17, 2023: On January 6, Metro will issue the call for projects, kicking off the window of time for transportation agencies to review and update their project lists and add new priority projects to the RTP – a key step for these projects to qualify for state and federal funding.

March to April 2023: Policymakers, regional advisory committees and stakeholders review and comment on draft priority projects and a high-level project assessment. This will include an online comment opportunity. Metro staff will incorporate feedback, as feasible, into the Public Draft 2023 RTP and report feedback and findings to policy makers and to transportation agencies to inform the refinement of their project lists.

- **Opportunity for input:** Community-based organizations will lead engagement, Metro will host an online survey, forums and other activities. Metro is requesting that governing bodies of agencies provide a letter endorsing the draft list of projects. Public meetings when governing bodies discuss the draft lists provide opportunities for community partners to weigh in.

July 1 to August 23, 2023: The 2023 RTP Draft Public Review Draft will be released for a 45-day public comment period. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments.

September to November 2023: Metro staff document public comments received and work with TPAC and MTAC to develop recommendations for consideration by MPAC, JPACT and Metro Council

- **Opportunity for input:** Meetings of the county transportation coordinating committees, Portland advisory committees, TPAC and MTAC provide opportunities for communities to provide comments.

November 2023: JPACT and Metro Council take action on the 2023 RTP. The plan must be adopted by December 6, 2023.

