



Policy Framework for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Call for Projects

On December 15, 2022, JPACT and Metro Council accepted this policy framework for the 2023 RTP Call for Projects.

The Regional Transportation Plan brings city, county, regional and state priority transportation projects together to create a coordinated regional transportation priority list for the period from 2023 to 2045. It is a key step for these projects to qualify for potential state, and federal funding. All types of projects are included in the Regional Transportation Plan list – highways, key roads, transit, freight, biking and walking as well as programs. The current list includes more than 1,100 projects.

This document provides more information about the policy framework that will guide updating the list of Regional Transportation Plan project and program priorities. Dramatic changes have unfolded since the RTP was last updated five years ago, many documented in the 2023 RTP [Emerging Transportation Trends Study](#). As greater Portland continues to emerge from the disruptions of the pandemic and respond to other urgent trends and challenges, the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan update provides an opportunity for all levels of government to work together to deliver a better transportation future.

An outcomes-based approach

An outcomes-based approach means updating the plan’s project priorities guided by a vision and goals that describe what communities want greater Portland to be in the future. Measurable objectives and performance targets are used to evaluate performance over time of the investments recommended in the plan and to monitor how the transportation system is performing between scheduled plan updates, which occur every five years.

Figure 1 shows the elements of this outcomes-based approach.



Figure 1. 2023 RTP outcomes-based planning approach

Vision and goals

The people of greater Portland have said they want a better transportation future, no matter where they live, where they go each day, or how they get there. The vision and goals, shown in Figure 2, describe what people have said is most important to achieve with the updated RTP – more equitable transportation, a safer system, a focus on climate action and resilience, a thriving economy and options for mobility. Developed by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council in 2022, this vision and five goals, along with other RTP policies, will guide updating the list of RTP project and program priorities.



Figure 2. 2023 RTP vision and goals

The policy framework for the Call for Projects includes:

- **RTP outcomes-based approach** described above;
- **Draft 2023 RTP vision and goals** developed by JPACT and Metro Council for the 2023 RTP:

Goals (developed in 2022 by JPACT and Metro Council)

- **Equitable Transportation** - Transportation system disparities experienced by Black, Indigenous and people of color and people with low incomes, are eliminated. The disproportionate barriers people of color, people with low incomes, people with disabilities, older adults, youth and other marginalized communities face in meeting their travel needs are removed.
- **Climate Action and Resilience** - People, communities and ecosystems are protected, healthier and more resilient and carbon emissions and other pollution are substantially reduced as more people travel by transit, walking and bicycling and people travel shorter distances to get where they need to go.
- **Thriving Economy** - An economically vibrant greater Portland region includes centers, ports, industrial areas, employment areas, and other regional destinations that are accessible through a variety of multimodal connections that help people, communities, and businesses thrive and prosper.
- **Safe System** - Traffic deaths and serious crashes are eliminated and all people are safe and secure when traveling in the region.
- **Mobility Options** - People and businesses can reach the jobs, goods, services and opportunities they need by well-connected, low-carbon travel options that are safe, affordable, convenient, reliable, efficient, accessible, and welcoming.
- **Supporting measurable objectives and performance targets** that the region wants to achieve with investments in the transportation system to realize the plan's vision and goals – these will continue to be reviewed and refined in 2023; and
- **Supporting policies** that guide planning and investment in each part of the regional transportation system to achieve the plan's vision and goals include:
 - **2040 Growth Concept map and supporting policies** that identify priority areas and investments to support current and planned land uses, including centers, downtowns and main streets, ports, industrial areas, employment areas, and other regional destinations that are accessible through a variety of multimodal connections;
 - **RTP transportation network maps and supporting RTP modal and design policies** that designate the regional system for transit, motor vehicle, freight, bicycle and pedestrian travel and priorities for investment;
 - **Equity Focus Areas map and supporting RTP equity policies** that identify priority areas and investments to advance equity;
 - **High Injury Corridors and Intersections map and supporting RTP safety policies** that identify priority corridors to improve safety;

- **High capacity transit network map (draft) and supporting RTP policies (draft)** that identify priority corridors ready for high capacity transit investment; these will continue to be reviewed and refined in 2023;
- **Congestion management network map and supporting RTP congestion management policies** that identifies priority corridors to comprehensively manage congestion consistent with congestion management process policies in Chapter 3 of the RTP;
- **Draft policies related to pricing and regional mobility** that will continue to be reviewed and refined in 2023; and
- **Other existing Chapter 3 policies** that will be reviewed and may be refined in 2023.

In addition to the RTP policy framework, the call for projects is informed by public engagement, adopted regional plans, strategies, policies, federal and state policies and requirements, the RTP needs assessment, the revenue forecast, and other elements as illustrated in Figure 3. Many of these elements have been under development since the adoption of the 2018 RTP.

Figure 3. Elements informing the 2023 RTP call for projects



These elements come together to inform the policy framework for call for projects and provide additional information to guide how investments in roads, bridges, bikeways, sidewalks, transit service and other needs are addressed and prioritized. The elements reflect extensive engagement with local elected officials, public agencies, Tribal governments, community-based organizations, business groups and the community at large.