



2023 Regional Transportation Plan

Community leaders' forum summary

April 13, 2023

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:

- 2023 RTP draft project list and high level assessment
- When and how to provide input on the RTP draft project lists
- Tualatin Valley Highway and 82nd Avenue corridor projects



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. On April 13, 2023, Metro hosted a two-hour virtual community leaders' forum, the third in a series of community leaders' forums for the 2023 RTP. At the first forum, community leaders provided feedback on priorities for the RTP update. Metro staff also heard interest from community leaders in understanding how the priorities are implemented in projects and programs in the RTP. Metro staff responded to this interest with a second community leaders' forum in October 2022. The October forum focused on how the RTP priorities and policy framework inform the development of the RTP project list and how community partners could give input early in the development of the project list. At the April forum, Metro staff presented an overview of the 2023 RTP draft project list and a draft high level assessment of the list. Staff also provided an update on two projects included in the draft RTP list: Tualatin Valley Highway and 82nd Avenue.

Metro invited representatives from culturally specific, environmental-justice and transportation-focused community-based organizations to participate in the forum. Representatives from the following organizations participated in the forum:

- Climate Solutions
- Getting There Together Coalition
- Intertwine Alliance
- Imagine Black
- Momentum Alliance
- Next Up
- Westside Transportation Alliance
- Unite Oregon
- OPAL
- Oregon Walks
- The Street Trust
- Verde

This document summarizes the information presented at the forum and participants' input. The input will be shared with staff at transportation agencies sponsoring projects in the 2023 RTP as well as regional decision makers.

The forum started with introductions. The RTP project team presented about the process leading up to the draft RTP project list, an overview of the projects on the list and a draft high level assessment of how the projects advance the RTP goals. Metro Councilor Duncan Hwang welcomed participants and encouraged their involvement in the RTP. Following discussion about the RTP, Metro staff provided a brief update on the [Tualatin Valley Highway](#) and [82nd Avenue](#) transit projects.

The project team also shared the [interactive 2023 RTP draft project map](#) and [spreadsheet](#). The map and list of projects can be used by community leaders and the public to see the transportation investments submitted by agencies for the draft 2023 RTP. Each of these tools provides information about the projects that can help inform community feedback.

At the end of the meeting, Metro staff polled the participants with this question: "how can Metro staff be most helpful to your organization engaging with the draft RTP project list?" Several organizations indicated that they wanted follow-up meetings with Metro staff. Following the forum Metro staff sent participants additional resources related to the draft RTP project list and meeting dates that Metro staff would be available to meet with community leaders. Three organizations met with Metro following the community leaders forum.

Summary of input

Participants asked clarifying questions about the RTP draft project list and provided their input. Input can be summarized under the following themes.

- People at all incomes need affordable access to the region's transportation system.
- Investment in transit is a priority.
- The high level assessment does not capture the full impacts of the projects, especially the climate impacts.

Affordability

Community leaders voiced concerns about affordability, emphasizing that community members of all incomes need to access the region's transportation investments. Tolls and increases in transit fares are going to make the system less accessible for people with lower incomes.

Investment in transit is a priority.

Community leaders expressed the need to invest in the region's transit system. There were several comments about the need for increased investment in transit including improved and more affordable service.

Concerns about draft project list summary and high level assessment results

- There were concerns that the high level assessment of the project list does not represent the impacts of the project list's impact on the climate. Projects that widen freeways are being shown as advancing climate; this feels like an affront.

- Many communities are in need of the smaller-scale safety and infrastructure projects. The projects are overshadowed in the high level assessment by the large projects. There should be more focus on focus and discussion space given to these smaller projects.
- Funding for roads and bridges and repairs is very different from road expansion; there should be a more nuanced break down of these project categories.

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

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A public review draft of the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan will be available for public comment July 10 through August 25, 2023. During this time, input from community leaders and other stakeholders will continue to be considered transportation agency staff and decision makers as they identify refinements to the draft plan. Additional refinements will be made in response to comments received during the public review of the draft plan.

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.