



Formal consultation process for the Regional Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Projects and processes implicated by this process

Metro updates the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every 5 years. The RTP is a blueprint to guide investments for all forms of travel – motor vehicle, transit, bicycle and walking – and the movement of goods and freight throughout the greater Portland region. The Plan identifies current and future transportation needs, investments needed to meet those needs and what funds the region expects to have available to over the next 25 years to make those investments a reality.

Metro issues the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) every 3 years. The MTIP records how all Federal transportation money is spent in the Portland metropolitan area. It also monitors and records state- and locally-funded projects that may significantly affect travel in the region.

Formal consultation process

During the scoping phase of the RTP and in advance of the adoption of the MTIP, Metro connects with agencies and Tribes to determine when and how the agencies and Tribes want to consult. Metro offers consultation orientation meetings and discusses the phases of the RTP process. Group meetings are offered for both agencies and Tribes; “one-on-one” meetings are also offered if the agency or Tribe is unable to attend one of the group meetings. Metro also invites agencies and Tribes to submit comment letters following consultation meetings or in lieu of participating in meetings.

During the orientation meetings, Metro describes the project phases and their expected time frames. Agencies and Tribes are asked to identify the phases in which they want to be informed, involved and/or consulted. Attachment A is the “questionnaire” provided to agencies and Tribes. Note that since the RTP and MTIP are on different cycles, both the RTP and MTIP are described. Responses to the questionnaire are documented.

Consultation roles

Metro extends invitations to consult, convenes consultation meetings, provides information on the purpose, scope, potential impacts and project schedule for the RTP and MTIP and answers questions from agencies and Tribes both when they are determining their level of consultation and throughout the consultation processes. Metro develops the RTP and MTIP with due consideration of related planning activities within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) as well as issues, concerns or recommendations made through the consultation process.

Consulting agencies provide guidance on when and how – through the RTP or MTIP process – they would like to be consulted and advocate for their agency’s values and goals to provide feedback and raise issues, concerns and recommendations to improve the RTP and MTIP processes and final documents.

Tribes provide guidance on when and how – through the RTP or MTIP process – they would like to be consulted; advocate from their Tribal perspective to provide feedback and raise issues, concerns and recommendations to improve the RTP and MTIP processes and final documents.

Responsibilities

Metro consults with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including state and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) and coordinates its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities. Metro develops the RTP and MTIP with due consideration of related planning activities within the MPA.

Consulting agencies understand, at a high level, the purpose, scope and potential impact of the RTP or MTIP and relay planning activities under their purview within the MPA that are affected by transportation and identify opportunities for coordinated planning process where practicable.

Tribes: determine whether to provide consultation, by understanding, at a high level, the purpose, scope and potential impact of the RTP or MTIP and understanding the planning process and key decision points. Tribes express to Metro how it can best remove barriers to consultation.

Key phases and decision points

Regional Transportation Plan

1. Scoping – stakeholder identification, work plan development, engagement plan development.
2. Framework development – key trends and challenges identification, transportation system vision refinement, outcomes prioritization.
3. Building the investment strategy – defining policy changes, project list updates, draft project list assessment, project list refinement.
4. Adopting the plan – review and comment and adoption process.

MTIP

1. Adopting the MTIP – review and comment and adoption process.
2. Amending the MTIP – review and comment and adoption of amendments (The MTIP is typically amended when additional funding becomes available or conditions on the ground lead agencies to modify, delay, or advance a project.)

Other MPO processes

Metro's regional flexible funds allocation is a process for distributing the small amount of federal funds provided directly to Metro for distribution (decisions fund regional programs and local projects that meet regional priorities). There is no formal consultation process for regional flexible fund allocations.

Agencies and Tribes invited to consult

Agencies

The following agencies are invited to consult.

Resource agencies

- Clackamas County Water Environment Services
- Clean Water Services
- Metro Parks and Nature
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA)
- National Park Service (Pacific West Region)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Forest Service
- United States Bureau of Land Management

Federal, state and local transportation agencies

- Bonneville Power Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Labor
- United States Department of V
- Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries
- Oregon Department of Energy
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
- Portland of Portland
- Port of Vancouver
- TriMet
- South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART)
- C-TRAN
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Tribes

The greater Portland MPA does not include Indian Tribal lands as defined by 25 CFR § 502.12. Metro is currently developing its Tribal Relations Program. This program is intended to build stronger relationships with Tribes who have expressed traditional homeland or resource interests in greater Portland. Invitations to consult are extended through or in coordination with the Tribal Policy Advisor. The following tribes are invited to consult.

- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Federal, tribal and state consultation with Metro preferences - survey

Metro is asking for your input on how and when we should reach out to your agency or tribe when conducting planning processes for greater Portland's transportation system.

Please select the level of notification or involvement that would work best for the key stages of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

Agency or Tribe

Best contact for Metro to coordinate with (name and title)

Email address for contact

Regional Transportation Plan

The Regional Transportation Plan is the 25-year blueprint for greater Portland's transportation system, setting the vision, goals and policies. It also brings together transportation projects from multiple jurisdictions, prioritizing them based on the amount of federal, state and local funds we can expect over the life of the plan.

Metro updates the plan every five years. The update process typically takes about three years.

1. Scoping – stakeholder identification, work plan development, engagement plan development

- Formal notification via letter
- Individual briefing and discussion (Metro staff and your staff)
- Invitation to a “group” briefing and discussion (multiple agencies invited)
- Interested persons list notification (email to all parties signed up for updates; includes comment opportunities)
- Direct notification via email
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies (Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, Metro Council)
- Other (please specify)

2. Framework development – key trends and challenges identification, transportation system vision refinement, outcomes prioritization

- Direct notification via email
- Formal notification via letter

Metro's formal consultation process for the RTP and MTIP - Attachment A

- Individual briefing and discussion
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Interested persons list notification
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

3. Building the investment strategy – defining policy changes, project list updates, draft project list assessment, project list refinement

- Formal notification via letter
- Individual briefing and discussion
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Interested persons list notification
- Direct notification via email
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

4. Adopting the plan –refinement and adoption of the plan

- Individual briefing and discussion
- Interested persons list notification
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Direct notification via email
- Formal notification via letter
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is the four-year schedule of investments in greater Portland that will use federal and state transportation funds. It also documents local investments that may impact the region's air quality.

Metro updates the plan every four years. The update process typically takes about three years, including policy updates and the process to allocate the small amount of federal funds provided directly to Metro for distribution.

1. Initiation – policy update and partner agreements

Metro's formal consultation process for the RTP and MTIP - Attachment A

- Formal notification via letter
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion (multiple agencies invited)
- Direct notification via email
- Interested persons list notification (email to all parties signed up for updates; includes comment opportunities)
- Individual briefing and discussion (Metro staff and your staff)
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies (Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, Metro Council)
- Other (please specify)

2. Metro's regional flexible funds allocation – process for distributing the small amount of federal funds provided directly to Metro for distribution (decisions fund regional programs and local projects that meet regional priorities)

- Direct notification via email
- Interested persons list notification
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Individual briefing and discussion
- Formal notification via letter
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

3. Adopting the MTIP – review and comment and adoption process

- Individual briefing and discussion
- Interested persons list notification
- Direct notification via email
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Formal notification via letter
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

4. Amending the MTIP – review and comment and adoption of amendments (additional funding becomes available, conditions on the ground lead jurisdictions to delay one project in favor of another)

- Direct notification via email

Metro's formal consultation process for the RTP and MTIP - Attachment A

- Individual briefing and discussion
- Interested persons list notification
- Invitation to a "group" briefing and discussion
- Formal notification via letter
- Invitation and coordination to comment to decision-making bodies
- Other (please specify)

Other Metro work

Metro is also responsible for other efforts, such as managing the urban growth boundary and preserving natural areas. Would you be interested in consulting on these other topics?

Additional areas of interest

- Natural areas preservation program
- Specific parks, trails and natural areas planning
- Urban growth boundary decisions
- Garbage and recycling policies
- Regional transportation studies and investment areas planning

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding consulting with Metro?