



LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION MEMORANDUM

Office of the Director

March 17, 2020

To: Get Moving Task Force

From: Chris Deffebach, Senior Policy Analyst

RE: Response to comments on the Hwy 99w and 217 Tier 2 requests

We recognize the Tier 2 presentations for Washington County's request to include the Hwy 217 Corridor and the Hwy 99W Corridor left you with many unanswered questions. On behalf of the project teams for both corridors, I'd like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to address those important questions and spend more time discussing these two corridors on March 18. With the new on-line format for the meeting, I would like to highlight our responses and connections to the Task Force values in advance.

Hwy 217 Corridor

In response to your comments on Hwy 217 Corridor, we revised our proposal to include a complete community engagement and planning phase for the broader Hwy 217 Corridor area. This phase will identify:

- Community-driven needs for bike lanes, sidewalks, safety improvements, transit speed, access and reliability improvements and trail improvements in the area adjacent to the highway and priorities for future funding and implementation.
- Companion projects that could be designed along with proposed investments on Hwy 217. Similar sidewalk, bike lane and trail improvements have been funded with current Hwy 217 investments.
- Additional leverage opportunities with the affordable housing, parks, trails and natural areas measures and other local investments.

Previous planning and community engagement with members of historically marginalized communities identified improvements for regional arterials and trails in the corridor. These projects, which are illustrated on the graphic in our response, can serve as a starting point to identify investments for the broader Hwy 217 corridor.

The engagement process will not start from scratch. It will build on established relationships with members of historically marginalized communities to identify investments that further support racial equity outcomes and advance climate goals. To this point, the corridor is rapidly growing and is more racially diverse with 1 in 3 now identifying as a person of color. Investments in this centrally located and densifying corridor supports climate goals by promoting shorter trips and increasing travel options.

As you requested, our submitted response provides additional detail on previous traffic modeling, congestion relief efforts, safety and leverage opportunities which I hope you will find informative. You also requested information about phasing options. The Hwy 217 proposal can be phased. We propose the new planning and engagement as Phase 1 for \$2 million, \$25 million to \$27 million for preliminary engineering in Phase 2 and design and construction for the remaining \$105 million to \$125 million in Phase 3.



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Hwy 99W corridor

Your review and questions on the Hwy 99W proposal included a request for more information about the demographics, community engagement, affordable housing, safety and leverage opportunities.

- The nine-mile 99W corridor passes through a diverse range of communities, similar to other ODOT highways in Tier 1. Some areas have twice the regional average of poverty and above average concentrations of communities of color. Other areas serve major employment needs, many of which offer middle wage jobs.
- The City of Tigard, with other partners, are engaging members of historically marginalized communities through the SW Corridor Equitable Development Strategy (SWEDS) and the Washington Square Regional Center plan update, among others. The 99W Corridor study provides an opportunity to identify needs of historically marginalized communities throughout the corridor and further advance racial equity and other Task Force values.
- The corridor has both regulated and non-regulated affordable housing. Within ½ mile of the corridor, 53% of housing units are rentals or condos. Within Tigard, almost 1,000 units of affordable housing are newly built or planned. Partners are actively exploring additional affordable housing opportunities, especially in the SW Corridor.

In your packet, our response provides more information on the safety concerns in the corridor, especially for older adults, persons with disabilities and others who increasingly need to cross Hwy 99W as communities grow. We've also provided more information on leverage opportunities for the corridor's many trails, parks and natural areas.

The current early scoping study for the corridor, funded by ODOT, is the first step in developing a vision for the corridor. The \$3-5 million we request from the regional transportation investment measure will support the development of a comprehensive corridor vision to transform the corridor from its historic focus on moving vehicular traffic to the realization that the corridor is serving different multimodal needs and broader objectives in a changing community.

On behalf of all of the project partners for both corridors, we appreciate this opportunity to respond to your questions and are available for any follow-up requests.