



TRANSPORTATION FINANCE STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHOICES

The region's funding gap is so significant, the region needs to use every tool at our disposal to address current and future transportation needs in support of the Region 2040 Growth Concept. To maximize and protect the public's investment in the transportation system, the region needs a strategy that effectively links land use with transportation investment decisions. The region needs both short- and long-term strategies to raise new revenues to fund needed investments.

Please respond to each of the following questions and submit to Kim Ellis at ellisk@metro.dst.or.us by June 25, 2007. Your responses will be compiled into a summary document to inform future discussions on these issues.

1. State Funding Strategy Considerations:

- a. Should we continue to pursue state gas tax and vehicle fee increases for a broad array of state and local road needs following a 50/30/20 state/county/city split? Why or why not?

- b. Should we follow the lead established by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) targeting state revenue increases to specific targeted purposes, particularly modernization? Why or why not?

- c. Because of the very high cost of major state highway and freeway projects, does the region have any choice but to pursue building key projects with tolls?

2. Regional Funding Strategy Considerations:

- a. What is the regional responsibility for funding transportation? Why?

- b. Should the region pursue a transportation funding ballot measure? If so, for what purpose?

- c. Should we change the approach to allocating funds in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)? Why and how, or why not?

3. Local Funding Strategy Considerations:

- a. Which transportation needs should be considered a local responsibility? Why?

- b. Should any regional or state funding decisions take into account the extent of local efforts to raise funding given the widely disparate levels of revenue raising across the region? Why or why not?

4. Land Use and Future Growth Strategy Considerations:

- a. To meet state requirements, the 2035 RTP will need to be sufficient to support land use plans and accompanied by a financial strategy adequate to implement it. If there isn't sufficient political will to raise funding, should the region consider growth controls as an alternative to seeking new revenue? Why or why not?

- b. What set of land use and transportation efficiency policies and tools should be adopted to maximize the public's investment in transportation infrastructure?

5. Short-term/Long-term Strategy Consideration:

While the RTP financing strategy covers a long time period (2035) and can include planned funding actions many years in the future, it should also help frame funding actions to pursue in the next 2-3 years at the federal, state, regional and local levels.

Do you agree? Why or why not?