

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: **RTP Transit Providers meeting**
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Time: 9-11 a.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers
Purpose: For Transit Providers to share and discuss transit priorities and vision ideas
Outcome(s): Start developing a coordinated transit vision for our Regional Transit Strategy and to support the Regional Transit Strategy and 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update

9 a.m.	Welcome & introductions	Jamie Snook
9:05 a.m.	Transit Providers Update <i>What is transit related activities are happening with your agencies and your communities</i>	Everyone
9:25 a.m.	Overview and policy framework <i>Provide an overview of the progress made with the Regional Transit Strategy</i>	Jamie Snook
9:45 a.m.	Transit vision and maps <i>Provide definition for the Total Transit Map and the Transit Capital Investment Map</i>	Jamie Snook
10:00 a.m.	Transit vision map exercise <i>Share and discuss transit and transit related priorities and vision for the short, mid and long term strategy</i>	Everyone
10:30 a.m.	Report out from map exercise	Everyone
10:40 a.m.	Next Steps <i>Provide an overview of the next steps and identify follow up conversations</i>	Jamie Snook/Everyone
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn	

Meeting Packet	Next Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Transit Providers Agenda• Discussion guide for meeting	April, TBD Metro, TBD
	May, TBD Metro, TBD

Directions, travel options and parking information

Covered bike racks are located on the north plaza and inside the Irving Street visitor garage. Metro Regional Center is on TriMet bus line 6 and the streetcar, and just a few blocks from the Rose Quarter Transit Center, two MAX stations and several other bus lines. Visit our website for more information: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/metro-regional-center>



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Memo

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
To: Regional Transit Providers
From: Jamie Snook, Metro Principal Planner
Subject: March 2017 Regional Transit Providers Meeting Discussion Guide

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide some background and context to the Regional Transit Provider's meeting on March 7, 2017. The meeting will focus on four items:

- Regional Transit Strategy process
- Draft policy framework (for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update), and
- Draft transit network vision.
- Transit System Expansion Policy Framework

Regional Transit Strategy process

The Regional Transit Strategy is a collaborative effort to create a single coordinated transit vision and implementation strategy. The objectives of the Regional Transit Strategy are:

- Implement the 2040 Growth Concept and Climate Smart Strategy
- Update RTP transit-related policies and performance measures
- Update the current Regional Transit Network Map and High Capacity Transit Map
- Update the Transit System Expansion Policy
- Recommend a coordinated strategy for future transit investments and identify potential partnerships, strategies and funding sources for implementation.

The attached work flow diagram, Building a Regional Transit Strategy (see attachment A) shows how the regional transit strategy fits within the context of the RTP. The Transit Work Group and Transit Providers will discuss the potential updates to the transit related policies, transit network and the transit system expansion policies.

The Regional Transit Strategy is building off previous plans and studies to develop a coordinated transit vision. The vision can also include new ideas emerging such as enhanced transit corridors concept that meet a regional transit need. All of these combined create a transit vision for the future. The Transit Work Group will develop draft transit policies, a draft transit vision and updates to the Transit System Expansion Policy prior to the call for projects phase (June 1 – July 21, 2017) of the 2018 RTP.

Projects identified through the call for projects phase of the RTP will be evaluated based on the system wide performance and equity measures. Major transit investments, such as enhanced transit corridors and high capacity transit, will be evaluated through the System Expansion Policy readiness criteria. An individual project assessment will be conducted a small subset of projects, to be defined. This information plus public input will be the basis for the RTP policy discussion which includes the technical analysis and public input.

Draft Transit Policy Framework

We are building a strong Regional Transit Vision and Strategy towards implementation. As a group, we have come together around a future vision to make transit more frequent, convenient, accessible and affordable for everyone. In addition, we have started to identify strategies to bring this vision to life. The attached table (see attachment B) identifies the specific goals and associated strategies.

The goals and strategies are comparable to our existing transit policies. Updating our existing transit policies with our regional transit vision and goals provides a framework for how we see and implement our transit vision. The following goals could be framed as policies.

To make transit more frequent:

- Align frequency and type of transit service to meet existing and projected demand and transit needs.
- Support the implementation of local and regional land use and transportation visions

To make transit more convenient:

- Make transit more convenient for everyone and competitive with driving by improving transit speed and reliability through priority treatments (e.g., signal priority, bus lanes, queue jumps, etc.) and other strategies.
- Improve customer experience by ensuring seamless connections between various transit providers, including transfers, information and payment.

To make transit more accessible:

- Provide safe and direct biking and walking routes and crossings and other visibility amenities that connect to stops to make transit more accessible.
- Expand the system to improve access to jobs and essential destinations/daily needs for everyone.

To make transit more affordable:





- Ensure that transit remains affordable, particularly for those who rely on it the most

These goals or potential new policies do not include the existing policy: **Support expanded commuter rail and intercity transit service to neighboring communities.** This is still an important part of our transit system and is proposed to remain as a policy.

Additionally, we discussed at our last meeting the need to maintain our existing aging system and improve existing transit bottlenecks. While our current policies do identify this as a need, it is not specifically called out as a policy. A recommendation could be to add a policy such as: **Maintain, replace and improve critical elements to the system to maintain safe and reliable operations.**

Table 1 presents how potential new transit policies relate to our existing policy framework.

Table 1: Existing and Potential Transit Policies

Existing policies		Potential new policies
Build the total transit network and transit –supportive land uses to leverage investments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align frequency and type of transit service to meet existing and projected demand and transit needs. • Support the implementation of local and regional land use and transportation visions.
Improve local transit service		
Expand high capacity transit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make transit more convenient for everyone and competitive with driving by improving transit speed and reliability through priority treatments (e.g., signal priority, bus lanes, queue jumps, etc.) and other strategies. • Improve customer experience by ensuring seamless connections between various transit providers, including transfers, information and payment.
Expand regional and local frequent transit service		
Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to transit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe and direct biking and walking routes and crossings and other visibility amenities that connect to stops to make transit more accessible. • Expand the system to improve access to jobs and essential destinations/daily needs for everyone.
Support expanded commuter rail and intercity transit service to neighboring communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support expanded commuter rail and intercity transit service to neighboring communities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, replace and improve critical elements to the system to maintain safe and reliable operations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that transit remains affordable, particularly for those who rely on it the most

To summarize, these are proposed draft transit related policies for our discussion:

1. Align frequency and type of transit service to meet existing and projected demand and transit needs.
2. Support the implementation of local and regional land use and transportation visions.
3. Make transit more convenient for everyone and competitive with driving by improving transit speed and reliability through priority treatments and other strategies.
4. Improve customer experience by ensuring seamless connections between various transit providers, including transfers, information and payment.
5. Provide safe and direct biking and walking routes and crossings and other visibility amenities that connect to stops to make transit more accessible.
6. Expand the system to improve access to jobs and essential destinations/daily needs for everyone.
7. Ensure transit remains affordable, especially for those dependent upon it.

8. Maintain, replace and improve critical elements to the system to maintain safe and reliable operations
9. Support expanded commuter rail and intercity transit service to neighboring communities.

Draft transit network vision

As part of the 2018 RTP update, the Transit Work Group and Transit Providers are charged with updating the Regional Transit Vision and Total Transit Network Map (see attachment C). The Total Transit Network Map presents the long term vision for transit in the region. This includes future transit service improvements and major capital investments. The Regional Transit Strategy will identify the transit need and solutions based on the planning efforts conducted by regional partners. The Transit Strategy will look to develop solutions for transit needs that are unmet.

Together we can coordinate all of these efforts into one unified transit vision and network map. We need the Transit Work Group and Transit Provider to help in identifying changes and additions to make transit more frequent, convenient, accessible and affordable. We need help from our partners around the region to help identify where there are needs not being met and where there should be changes to the vision.

Typically, the RTP only includes projects and plans that have been adopted in a TSP, subarea plan, topical or modal plan, or transit service plan through a public process that provided opportunities for the public and stakeholders. We rely on agencies to conduct the local public engagement needed for all projects to come into the RTP. This is still true; however, the Regional Transit Strategy provides an opportunity to identify transit related needs not being met and new improvements or investments that can meet those needs. Any new projects submitted to the RTP will still need to have an agency's governing body approval to be submitted to the RTP, through the call for projects.

Transit System Expansion Policy framework

The Regional High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Plan and transit System Expansion Policy were adopted in 2009. The HCT Plan identified a HCT network and prioritized transit investments into tiers. Tier 1 of the network included the Southwest and Powell-Division corridors, which are moving forward into project development and environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The System Expansion Policy is designed to help jurisdictions move projects towards implementation. The purpose of the System Expansion Policy is to:

1. Clearly articulate the decision-making process by which future HCT corridors will be advanced for regional investment
2. Establish minimum requirements for HCT corridor working groups to inform local jurisdictions as they work to advance their priorities for future HCT
3. Define quantitative and qualitative performance measures to guide local land use and transportation planning and investment decisions
4. Outlines the process for updating the 2035 RTP, including Potential future RTP amendments, for future HCT investment decisions

The HCT Plan, and System Expansion Policy support the region's vision defined by the 2040 Growth Concept. Since the adoption of the HCT Plan and the System Expansion Policy, the region adopted the Six Desired Outcomes and completed the Climate Smart Strategy, while TriMet completed their Service Enhancement Plans and SMART embarked upon their Transit Master Plan. Other jurisdictions have continued to develop localized plans and policies that support transit improvements and investments in the region. Additionally, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, which provides federal funding support for high

capacity transit projects, has evolved as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Based on these events, it makes sense to evaluate if there are any changes needed to the system expansion policy to support the most current plans and policies.

Next Steps

Next steps for the Regional Transit Strategy are:

- March:
 - 3/15/17 - Presentation/update to MTAC
 - Discussions with regional partners, as needed
 - 3/31/17 - Presentation/update to TPAC
- April:
 - TBD - Transit work group meeting to further discuss transit policies, transit vision and system expansion policy
 - 4/11/17 - Presentation/update to Metro Council
 - 4/12/17 - Presentation/update to MPAC
 - 4/20/17 - Presentation/update to JPACT
 - TBD - Presentation/update to TriMet Board
- May:
 - TBD - Transit work group meeting to further discuss transit policies, transit vision and system expansion policy
- June:
 - Call for projects
- Late summer/early fall:
 - TBD - Transit work group meeting to further discuss transit policies, transit vision and system expansion policy