



2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

# Finalizing Our Shared Plan for the Region

## Regional Leadership Forum 4 summary

The region is looking ahead to how our transportation system will accommodate future growth and change – and what investments we should make over the next 25 years to build a safe, reliable, healthy and affordable transportation system with travel options.

On March 2, 2018, the Metro Council hosted Regional Leadership Forum 4, at the Oregon Convention Center. More than 100 city, county, and regional policymakers and business and community leaders from across the greater Portland area joined in bringing the perspectives of their constituents and communities to the conversation.

These leaders offered their views on:

- **priorities to address** in the next 10 years and beyond
- opportunities for **aligning investments with priorities** as draft project lists are refined by jurisdictions
- building a **shared path forward**.

### What did leaders say?

Let's be bold.

Economic prosperity should not be at the expense of underserved communities.

We need to build public trust and be accountable.

It's time to pivot from information to action and leadership.

### Report on community priorities

Several community leaders reported on priorities that emerged from the January 19 Community Leaders' Forum and other community transportation conversations.

Priorities include:

- Lead with equity.
- Address housing and transportation affordability and displacement in an integrated manner.
- Prioritize safety, biking, walking, and transit projects in historically marginalized communities, with a focus on people of color and households of modest means.



*“At the end of the day, communities are on the ground and those same communities are the ones experiencing decisions being made.”*

- María Hernández, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

*“If we are prioritizing in a way to improve the quality of life for historically marginalized people, we, in fact, will be improving the quality of life of all people.”*

- Martine Coblentz, member of Metro's Committee on Racial Equity (CORE)

## Seven key takeaways

Leaders participated in table discussions to recommend ways for jurisdictions to refine their draft project lists to better meet the region's shared goals. What we heard follows.

### 1. We can make more near-term progress on key regional priorities – equity, safety, travel options and congestion.

Advancing projects that address these outcomes to the 10-year list will improve people's lives by making travel safer, easing congestion, improving access to jobs and community places, attracting jobs and businesses to the region, saving households and businesses time and money, and reducing vehicle emissions.

### 2. This is an opportunity to reduce disparities and barriers that exist for historically marginalized communities.

Advancing projects that improve safety and expand travel options to the 10-year list will reduce disparities and barriers, especially for people of color and households of modest means.

### 3. Prioritize projects that focus on safety in high injury corridors.

Advance projects in high injury corridors to the 10-year list and ensure all projects in high injury corridors address safety to reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes for all modes.

### 4. Accelerate transit service expansion.

Increase transit service as much as possible beyond Climate Smart Strategy investment levels. Focus new and enhanced transit service to connect transit to underserved communities to jobs and community places, in congested corridors and in areas with more jobs and housing.

### 5. Tackle congestion and manage travel demand.

Advance lower cost projects to the 10-year list that use designs, travel information, technologies, and other strategies to support and expand travel options and maximize use of the existing system. This will help ease congestion and keep people and goods moving safely and reliably. It will be important to ensure that lower income households are not financially burdened by strategies to make road use more efficient.

### 6. Prioritize completion of biking and walking network gaps.

Advance projects that fill gaps for biking and walking in high injury corridors or that provide connections to transit, schools, jobs and 2040 centers to the 10-year list.

### 7. We must continue to build public trust through inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability.

Leaders agreed that it is important to continue engaging the region's diverse communities in the planning and implementation of projects to achieve desired outcomes, including equity, safety, reliability affordability and health. We should report back whether projects deliver (or don't deliver) anticipated outcomes and adjust course as needed. Improved participation, transparency and accountability with our investment decisions will help build broad support for more investment in our communities.



*"We need leadership, and we need it from the people in this room. We need it from the elected officials, we need it from the business community, we need it from community leaders, and we need it from staff, because the stakes are so high."*

*- Jessica Vega Pederson,  
Multnomah County Commissioner*

## More information

News coverage of the forum is available at [oregonmetro.gov/leadershipforum4](https://oregonmetro.gov/leadershipforum4).

A report on the forum and other public engagement activities will be available in April 2018. Find out more about the 2018 RTP update at [oregonmetro.gov/rtp](https://oregonmetro.gov/rtp).