



The 2020 priority transportation system

What is the Regional Transportation Plan?

Metro's 2000 Regional Transportation Plan is a blueprint to guide new transportation investments in the Portland metropolitan region during the next 20 years. The plan begins to implement Metro's 2040 Growth Concept to protect the livability of this region in the face of an expected 50 percent increase in population and a 70 percent increase in jobs by 2020. The goal of the plan is to expand choices for travel in the region. To this end, the plan sets policies for traveling by cars, buses, light rail, walking, bicycling and movement of freight by air, rail, truck and water.



METRO
Regional Services
Creating livable communities

Metro, the regional government that serves the 1.3 million people who live in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area, provides planning and services that protect the nature of our region.

What is the 2020 priority transportation system?

There is a dramatic shortfall in funding for the 2020 "preferred" system, a 20-year set of all needed transportation projects in the region identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. A scaled-back "priority" system of projects was adopted in an attempt to balance funding limitations with future transportation needs. The priority system includes the projects most needed to carry out the 2040 Growth Concept. Though less expensive than the preferred system, the priority system will still require new sources of transportation funding.

Why do we need to expand the transportation system?

Population in the region is expected to grow by 50 percent and employment by 70 percent in the next 20

years. The number of trips to work will continue to have a significant impact on the transportation system, especially in the morning and evening rush hours. By 2020, the overall number of trips per person within the metro area will increase to more than 7.5 million trips per day. One goal of the priority system is to slow the growth of vehicle trips by expanding options for using transit, bicycling, walking and carpooling.

What types of projects are in the priority system?

The priority system includes 615 of the region's most critical transportation projects. They include bridge maintenance and preservation; highway and arterial street expansions; new street connections; expanded transit service; rail and road expansions for freight; improvements to major streets for walking, biking and transit; and an expanded



The Regional Transportation Plan priority system places emphasis on a balanced transportation system that serves car, transit, trucks, bicycles and pedestrians. (Main Avenue in Gresham is pictured.)

regional trails network. The list of projects was developed by Metro and the local jurisdictions during the last two years, based on input from the public.

What will the priority system accomplish?

The priority system will relieve key bottlenecks in the region for better transportation mobility. It will also focus on improving areas that are most important to the 2040 Growth Concept. These areas include the central city (Portland), six regional centers (such as Clackamas, Beaverton and Gresham regional centers), industrial areas (such as Sunset and Rivergate industrial areas) and intermodal facilities (such as a rail yard, airport or train station). Some projects will also be funded in town centers, transit station communities, main streets and major transit corridors.



Low-cost solutions, such as the restriping of I-5 to include carpool lanes, will be used to delay major highway expansion where possible.



How will the priority system make travel more efficient?

The priority system will make the transportation system more efficient by careful phasing of needed improvements. It also will fund less costly system management projects (such as ramp metering and signal timing) and demand management strategies (such as transit commuting and work-at-home options) before major road expansions. These methods will make better use of the existing system and delay the need for some new road projects.

What can we afford?

The priority system was developed as a mid-size list of projects to balance current funding limits with the projected needs of our region. For the purpose of local land-use decision-making, it is considered an “adequate” system, as it addresses most of the region’s expected transportation needs. The priority system relies on all currently identified revenue sources and assumes new funding in the future. While new revenue is needed to fund the priority system, it would not raise the overall transportation funding burden on the average household beyond that devoted to other utilities, such as water, sewer or electricity. A fact sheet, Transportation Funding, has more details on financing the priority system.

Light rail is the focus of compact new Washington County development in Orenco intended to reduce sprawl.

For more information

Call the transportation hotline, (503) 797-1900 option 2. You can leave a message requesting a copy of the Regional Transportation Plan or other fact sheets about the plan. Ask for a list of all RTP fact sheets. If you are hearing impaired, call TDD (503) 797-1804.

Visit our web site at www.metro-region.org

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