



Amending the RTP

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
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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.



Orenco Station town center in Hillsboro is an example of coordinated land-use and transportation decision-making that emphasizes transit, bicycling and walking to minimize traffic impacts on existing streets.

Amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan

When Metro amends the Regional Transportation Plan, findings will be evaluated and adopted to be consistent with the Regional Framework Plan. Decisions on amendments made at this level are land-use decisions for need, mode, corridor, general scope and function of a proposed project. Subsequent land-use decisions on final project design and impacts will be needed prior to construction.

Such analysis of impacts could lead to a "no-build" decision, where a proposed project is not recommended for implementation. This would require reconsideration of the proposed project or system improvements. As such, amendments at this level shall be reviewed through the post-acknowledgement

process. However, a decision to amend the Regional Transportation Plan does not preclude full consideration of all relevant goal issues when specific projects and programs are developed at the local level.

RTP project amendments

The RTP establishes a comprehensive policy direction for the regional transportation system and recommends a balanced program of transportation projects to implement that policy direction. However, the recommended projects do not solve all transportation problems and are not intended to be the definitive capital improvement program on the local transportation system for the next 20 years.

It is Metro's responsibility to adopt findings based on project need, mode, corridor, general scope and function of project proposed in the Regional Transportation Plan. The affected jurisdiction is responsible for preparing the specific local plan amendments and findings related to specific location, project design and impact mitigation, and for scheduling them for hearing.

The RTP identifies the projects, programs or further refinement studies required to adequately meet regional transportation system needs during the 20-year planning period. Local conditions will be addressed through city and county transportation system plans. They will require additional analysis and improvement to provide an adequate transportation system. Section 6.7 of the RTP document anticipates such refinements. Refinements to the plan may result from ongoing corridor plans or area studies. The following may be used to update the plan to include such changes:

1. Amendments resulting from major studies

As the findings of major studies are produced, they will be recommended by a resolution of JPACT and the Metro Council. These amendments must be incorporated into the plan.

2. Amendments resulting from local transportation system plans

New roadway, transit, bikeway, pedestrian, freight and demand management projects necessary to meet the objectives of the RTP must be consistent with the RTP criteria, including:

- consistency with goals, policies and objectives in Chapter 1 of the plan
- consistency with the modal function of the facility as defined in Chapter 1 of the plan
- evaluation through the congestion management system analysis.

Congestion management requirements

These requirements relate to any amendments to the RTP to add significant single-occupancy vehicle capacity to arterials and/or highways. The following issues must be considered when recommendations are made to revise the plan to address an identified transportation need:

1. regional transportation demand strategies
2. regional transportation system management strategies
3. high-occupancy vehicle strategies
4. regional transit, bicycle and pedestrian system projects
5. unintended land-use and transportation effects resulting from a proposed single-occupancy vehicle project(s)
6. effects of latent demand from other modes, routes or time of day from a proposed single-occupancy vehicle project(s).

If the considerations in 1 through 6 do not adequately address the problem, a significant capacity improvement may be included in the plan.

Updating the plan

The RTP is updated every three to five years, and covers a minimum 20-year plan period. Periodic amendments to the plan will also occur as needed to reflect recommendations from planning studies. As preparation for each scheduled update, development throughout the region will be monitored to determine whether growth (and the associated travel demand) occurs as forecast. Metro reviews population and employment forecasts annually and updates them at least every five years.



Amendments to the RTP need to be consistent with land-use changes.

How can I get 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

Send e-mail to trans@metro.dst.or.us