

Going places



REGIONAL HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT SYSTEM PLAN

Build-a-system tool tutorial

The map shows several activity centers as well as potential high capacity transit corridors being studied by Metro. You can select from these corridors to build your own high capacity transit system.

Corridors

When you start, the potential corridor segments will be blue. These blue lines are straight-line representations of high capacity transit connections and do not follow the actual route that high capacity transit might take.

Hovering over one of these lines will turn the line green; clicking on it will create a pop-up box that provides information about the costs and benefits of the potential high capacity transit line.

Choosing “select” in the pop-up box will add the line to your system. The costs and benefits of the line will transfer to your system-level tracking.

Centers

Learn more about the activity centers that you would like to see connected by high capacity transit by clicking on the green icon.

A pop-up box will appear showing a close-up map of the area. A second tab in the pop-up box will show the center’s “walk score,” a calculation of amenities within walking distance of the center. If you follow the link, the walkscore.com page for the center will open in a new window.

Costs and benefits

Costs and benefits are scored based on data collected by Metro across 25 evaluation criteria. A selection of key criteria results are shown here.

Clicking the  icon next to each criteria in the left column provides a definition.

 **Capital cost** represents the relative cost to construct a transit line. The maximum cost is set to give you an idea about how much transit the region may be able to build in the next 30 years. Because costs are preliminary, it is just a rough guide.

 **Operating costs** include the cost to operate and maintain the system such as the cost of employing drivers, on-going maintenance of vehicles and track, station cleaning and maintenance.

 **Ridership** is a relative projection of riders based on future growth in housing and employment in the region.

 The **environmental benefit** score represents benefits such as improved air and water quality or a reduction in greenhouse gases that each line, or your system, might have.

 **Travel time** is the time it would take to travel from one end of the corridor to the other on high capacity transit. This is a relative measure that can help you compare among corridors.

Step-by-step process

Create your system

1. Find out about the corridor(s) that connect the activity centers that you would like to see served by high capacity transit. There may be more than one way to connect two points, so compare the different corridors. If you want to compare corridors, click the “close” button and then click on another corridor to read its information.

2. Choose a corridor by clicking the “select” button in the pop-up box.

3. After you've selected a corridor, characteristics for your system will show up on the left of the screen. As you add more lines, you will see that this information will change. Once you have spent your "budget" you won't be able to add any more lines to your system.

4. Add or remove corridors to build your system by repeating steps 1 through 3.

Save and submit your system

5. Save your system using the  icon in the left column or the button in the upper left corner of the map. If you would like to start over on your system without saving, you can click the "clear" button to start over.

6. Compare your saved systems by choosing the link in the left column. You will see the relative score of each of your systems for cost, ridership and environmental benefit. Click the "review" button next to any of your systems to make changes to it.

7. Submit your best system to Metro by checking the box and clicking "submit."

Share your thoughts and values

8. Complete the questionnaire of 16 questions. It is essential for the project team to learn why you chose the lines that you did.

Your responses to the questions will help the project team and elected officials understand the region's collective values in order to balance the trade-offs offered by these corridors.

For additional help, call 503-797-1756, send e-mail to trans@oregonmetro.gov or read answers to frequently asked questions below.

Frequently asked questions

What is high capacity transit?

High capacity transit is any public transportation that is fast and frequent on exclusive right of way (on its own track or in its own lane). Examples include commuter rail (like the WES), light rail (like the MAX), rapid streetcar and bus rapid transit.

What is a transit system?

This is the connection of transit routes (e.g. bus, MAX) to create a web of connections across an area.

For this project, Metro is only looking at where high capacity transit should be built in the next 20 to 50 years. However, that doesn't mean that other public transportation won't be built. TriMet regularly reevaluates local bus service and always considers local bus service before opening a new high capacity transit line. There is also a project being conducted by the City of Portland looking at the possibility of adding streetcar routes throughout Portland.

Why is the budget limited?

Although it might be nice to spend unlimited funds on high capacity transit, the region has other transportation needs (see Regional Transportation Plan question below). Metro tried to estimate a reasonable amount of money that could be set-aside for building new high capacity transit lines in the future.

How does this project relate to the rest of the Regional Transportation Plan?

The High Capacity Transit Plan is one piece of the larger Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is the region's plan for connecting and completing a multi-modal transportation system from now through 2035. The RTP includes plans for roads, freight movement, bicycles, pedestrians and transit.

Where did these corridors come from?

The project team asked community members last summer which lines should be considered. Almost 200 lines were suggested during several public meetings, at farmer's markets and through a web questionnaire. Read the project newsletter for more information.

Can I suggest a different corridor to study?

Unfortunately, it is too late to suggest a different corridor.

Why should I take the questionnaire?

Your answers to the questionnaire are needed to help the project team, staff and elected officials prioritize corridors for future high capacity transit investments. Your answers will help the team understand why you made certain connections and what evaluation criteria were most important to you.

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