



How projects get into the RTP

What is the RTP (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.



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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.



The Hawthorne Bridge was renovated in 1998-99.

What projects are included in the RTP?

The updated Regional Transportation Plan identifies the need for more than 700 projects throughout the Portland metropolitan area. It includes transportation projects and programs for the next 20 years that will help implement the region's 2040 Growth Concept. This fact sheet summarizes the process of how projects get into the RTP and get funding for construction.

The plan includes projects that expand the choices of travel within the region. The RTP recognizes that a growing population will continue to drive on roads and freeways. However, more use of transit, walking, bicycling and sharing rides can help the region maintain clean air, conserve energy and accommodate a growing

population within a compact urban growth boundary. The plan also recognizes that the transportation system plays a critical role in the continued economic health of the region. Improvements defined in the plan try to balance all of these diverse needs.

Examples of the types of projects in the RTP include:

- major highway expansions
- expanded transit service
- arterial street expansions
- new street connections
- bridge repairs
- wider sidewalks, safer street crossings and more bikeways
- better bike and pedestrian connections
- demand management programs.

A transportation project is eligible for state and federal funds distributed through Metro if it is included in the adopted RTP and is consistent with federal air quality standards.

Where do the idea originate and how are they approved?

A transportation project can be identified by an individual citizen, local jurisdiction and/or Metro through the development of the updated RTP. A project is nominated for inclusion in the plan and is carefully considered against other needed projects by a citizen advisory committee, local jurisdictions and through public meetings and hearings. The regional travel demand model is used to test the effectiveness of these projects. The projects are then recommended to the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). Following discussion and decision-making, final projects are recommended to the Metro Council. After more public meetings and hearings, the Metro Council makes the final decision.



New sidewalk projects improve pedestrian access.

Who is responsible for building the projects?

Metro does not design and build the projects in the RTP. After a project has been included in the plan, it must be evaluated in more detail as part of local jurisdictions planning process. The purpose for local planning is to consider engineering and design alternatives, environmental impacts, design details and to select an alignment, if necessary. It also includes a determination that the project is consistent with local plans and policies.

If this process results in a decision to not build the project, the RTP

will be amended to delete the project. A new transportation solution must be developed to meet the original need identified in the RTP, or a finding must be stated that the need has changed or has been addressed by other improvements. In these cases, the new solution or findings will be submitted as an amendment to the RTP to be evaluated at the project development level.

When a general design and project location or alignment is selected, then the proposed transportation project must be developed to a more detailed level prior to construction. The RTP requires cities, counties, Tri-Met, the Port of Portland and the Oregon Department of Transportation to consider transportation system management strategies to address existing street capacity and regional street design policies as part of the more detailed planning effort.

How are projects nominated for funding?

A project must be nominated by the local sponsoring jurisdiction for funding in the two-year Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). It is discussed and ranked in a package of projects by several committees, including the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation. The package is then recommended to the Metro Council. A hearing is held for final public comment on the package of projects. The Metro Council then makes a final decision regarding funding the transportation package. See the MTIP fact sheet for more details.

What are the sources of funding?

The region's transportation system is funded through a combination of local, regional, state and federal sources. Most projects of

importance to the region are funded with state and federal money through the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. Federal funds are given to this region with different requirements on how the money can be spent.

The state generates funds through a series of user fees that are limited to road use, including a gas tax, weight-mile tax for heavy trucks and vehicle/truck registration fees and driver's license fees. Tri-Met collects regional transit funds through a business payroll tax and fares. Local sources include county gas taxes, dedicated property tax levies and other development-related fees.

The RTP recognizes that the current level of funding is not adequate to build many needed projects. Therefore, new funding sources will need to be identified. See the "Funding Regional Transportation Priorities" fact sheet for more information.

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