



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: July 30, 2019
SUBJECT: **Regional Studies Update**

AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Board of ongoing and forthcoming regional transportation planning studies that RTC is leading or participating in, and those which may have regional significance and should be monitored.

BACKGROUND

As part of the annual RTC Work Program and Unified Planning Work Program development processes, RTC identifies those activities which it will lead or participate in as a convener or partner to regionally significant transportation planning and project development studies.

The following is a partial list of ongoing, or soon to be initiated, regional transportation planning studies in which RTC is either directly involved, or is tracking outcomes. Many of the Studies are described or referenced in RTC’s [FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program](#) (adopted by RTC Board, May 2019) and/or in Metro’s [2019-2020 UPWP](#). This information is presented in summary form to foster awareness and for individual RTC Board members and agency staff to research further based on individual agency interests.

RTC REGION

Study Name: Discovery Corridor Adaptive Infrastructure

Lead Agency: City of Ridgefield, in partnership with local and regional partners

General Description: A study of opportunities for regional and local infrastructure upgrades within the “Discovery Corridor” which could support and promote economic and land use development vision within the affected communities. The Discovery Corridor is roughly described as those communities abutting I-5 north of Salmon Creek area.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently available*

Study Name: Columbia Connects

Lead Agency: Metro in partnership with RTC, and other regional and local partners

General Description: A sub-area study of bi-state data and economic development opportunities and within neighborhoods abutting the Columbia River within the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area.

Website / Relevant Documents: *Not currently available*

Study Name: Transportation System Plans (*various agencies*)

Lead Agency: Vancouver, Camas, Clark County

General Description: Study of transportation infrastructure needs and system development policies in support of Comprehensive Plan objectives and community preferences.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently available*

Study Name: Household Travel Survey

Lead Agency: Metro/ODOT/RTC and other planning partners through Oregon Modeling Steering Committee

General Description: An updated activity based household travel survey to inform the regional transportation planning process and enable update and re-calibration of the regional travel forecast model. A household travel survey is typically conducted in the region every 10 to 15 years with the last survey in 2009. Fielding of an updated survey is tentatively scheduled for 2020/21.

Website / Relevant Documents Online:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/events/tpac-and-mtac-joint-workshop/2019-06-19>

see pages 88-102 of June 6, 2019 Joint TPAC/MTAC meeting packet

WASHINGTON STATE

Study Name: Statewide Transportation Needs Assessment

Lead Agency: WA State Legislature – Joint Transportation Committee

General Description: The Washington State Legislature has commissioned a comprehensive assessment of statewide transportation needs and priorities over the ten-year timeframe spanning 2022-2031. The assessment must include recommendations on critical, efficient, and effective transportation investments; a complete menu of funding options to fund identified priority investments; and recommendations for measuring the economic impact of a range of the recommended investments. Upon completion of the assessment, facilitation of an appointed panel is also required to review and recommend to the Legislature a timeline and actionable plan for consideration during the 2021 Legislative session.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Documents/RFPs/RFP_StatewideNeedsAssessmentFINAL.pdf

METRO (OR) REGION

Study Name: Congestion Pricing Implementation Studies

Lead Agency: Oregon Department of Transportation (OR)

General Description: On Tuesday, January 8, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) responded to ODOT's application to toll I-5 between Going Street and Multnomah Boulevard and I-205 at or near the Abernethy Bridge.

The next phase of work will include in-depth planning, traffic and revenue analysis, environmental review, and extensive public engagement. This analysis will focus on concerns raised frequently during the feasibility analysis phase of the project, including understanding equity impacts, needed improvements to mass transit services and other travel options and minimization of diversion impacts to neighborhood streets. This phase is expected to take several years due to the rigor of the analysis and the extensive public engagement required.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Pages/VP-join-conversation.aspx>

Study Name: Regional Congestion Pricing Technical Study

Lead Agency: Metro (OR)

General Description: Metro, working in partnership with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), TriMet, and in coordination with ODOT, is to lead an investigative technical study of congestion pricing. The Study will look at various applications of pricing to understand outcomes and effects of different pricing policies and programs if applied in the Portland region. The Study is scheduled to conclude in early 2021.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

<https://oregonmetro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7531950&GUID=9E923BC4-78E0-4EA1-87EF-EF6E3F5BB211>

Study Name: Regional Mobility Policy Update

Lead Agency: Metro (OR) and ODOT

General Description: Metro's 2018 Regional Transportation Plan recognized that a growing and changing region needs an updated mobility policy for measuring performance of the transportation system and identifying the transportation needs of people and goods. Metro and ODOT will lead planning partners to update the Regional Mobility Policy built around key values recognized in the 2018 RTP of equity, climate, safety, and congestion relief. Work is scheduled to conclude in June 2021.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/events/tpac-and-mtac-joint-workshop/2019-06-19>

see pages 20-61 and 65-87 of June 6, 2019 Joint TPAC/MTAC meeting packet

Study Name: Regional Growth Concept Refresh

Lead Agency: Metro (OR)

General Description: An update to Metro's 2040 Growth Concept which provides vision for growth in the region, protecting urban and natural areas and providing transportation choices. The updated vision will plan for year 2070, keeping the vision for urban centers and corridors established in the 2040 Growth Concept, but focusing on issues including planning for a new economy, addressing community resilience, leadership on climate change, racial equity and tackling new challenges requiring regional coordination.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

<https://oregonmetro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7208931&GUID=DF0EF017-14FC-4244-B596-F5DD6EF6E63D>