

May 15, 2019

Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) Meeting

To: Metro Staff and Transportation Funding Task Force Members

### **Getting There Together | Who We Are**

The Getting There Together (GTT) coalition formed in 2017 in response to growing concerns that the Portland metropolitan region wasn't adequately planning to build the comprehensive infrastructure and transportation system in a way that actually responds to the needs of people who live, work, learn, practice spiritually and play. Our coalition is comprised of over 25 member and mission-based organizations in the Metro region that work in and with stakeholders, businesses, and community members in the metro region including communities of color, transit riders, youth, older adults, and the most vulnerable users of the road.

The Getting There Together Coalition represents much of the community these potential transportation improvements would impact. As you all continue to prioritize corridors for potential investment through the T2020 measure, we share with you our coalition's analysis and urge you to use an equity lens and people-driven approach when prioritizing any investment coming as part of this process.

### **Contents:**

In this packet you will find:

- GTT's Tier 1 Corridor recommendation & approach
- GTT's original original corridor analysis presented to the task force on 4/24
- A Climate-Smart Strategy one-pagers to run corridors through

### **Our Regional Vision: Transportation for People**

GTT urges you to help craft a measure that ***first and foremost prioritizes people particularly those most impacted by our transportation system*** - their need to get to work on time, cross the street safely no matter their race, ability, or geography, get to a doctor's appointment across town. By prioritizing people also means having the opportunity to address our climate crisis. We know that transportation accounts for 40% of our Oregon's emissions and our low-income and communities of color remain the most impacted by climate change. Therefore prioritizing people, with equity in mind and accessible multimodal investments in transit, walking and biking, addressing safety and planning for programs that create access for communities and increase ridership will result in a solution addressing climate.

This measure should come together with a triple bottom line: Investments should support communities most in need of transportation options, drastically increase ridership and reducing emissions through increased transit and community driven projects, and help people get where they need to go, safely and quickly.

### **GTT's Initial Corridor Analysis:**

In the original corridor exercise leading up to the 4/24 Transportation Funding Task Force meeting, GTT's approach prioritized Equity above other factors as laid out below:

- Equity considerations weighted at 75% to ensure that communities that have been historically under/disinvested in receive appropriate funding. High equity corridors also have a strong correlation to the need for safety improvement, as well as the availability to provide travel options and naturally occurring affordable housing.
- Safety/options/affordability weighted at 50% each- this 75-50-50-50 overlay led to a list of 20 corridors.
- We also used air toxicity data from around corridors to prioritize areas most affected by poor air quality, to determine potential to reduce these impacts, which we believe should have been considered as one of the guiding categories. This narrowed our list to six corridors.

GTT's original list of 20 corridors narrowed through this approach, shared with the Task Force at the 4/24 meeting, is attached in this packet.

### **GTT's Tiered Recommendation:**

Using a people-driven approach to also reducing emissions significantly through this package, there are a few corridors currently being considered that clearly do not meet the triple bottom line of 1) Investing in communities most in need, 2) drastically increase ridership and reducing emissions through increased transit and community driven projects 3) increased safety and reliability of transportation options. They are listed below.

#### **Remove from Tier 1 / Tier 2 consideration:**

- I-5, Downtown Portland
- Sunrise Corridor, Highway 212
- C2C (southern half)
- I-205
- OR-217

The potential projects on these corridors disincentivize the use of multimodal usage; do not increase safety for the most vulnerable users of the road and do not have potential to increase ridership, posing a risk to achieving our climate goals. Other corridors on the list (discussed below) have the opportunity to address a number of outcomes at once: equity focus, significant progress towards zero deaths, decrease in commute times, emissions reductions, have an intersectional approach to investments.

We understand that the potential projects along these corridors may be high-priority for some jurisdictions in the region. But we urge Task Force members, as you prepare to land on a final

recommendation to Council, to be able to clearly ask and articulate the answer to the following questions for for the five corridors listed above:

- **Does this corridor present an opportunity to truly meet several priority outcomes at once?** For example, do potential improvements on this corridor make it easier for people to get around **and** reduce emissions through increased transit **and** improve outcomes for communities of color?
- **If so, what are the outcomes and what reasoning is used to prioritize this corridor over other corridors that have higher potential to increase transit ridership and reduce emissions through access?**
- **If not, what is the reasoning to prioritize them over some of the corridors that do meet several priority outcomes at once?**

For some of the corridors listed above, GTT recommends instead investing in nearby corridors in similar geography but in corridors that have higher potential for increased transit and safety investments (for example, N Mississippi/Albina & N Vancouver/Williams instead of I-5, Downtown Portland).

#### **Tier 1**

The pool of corridors that GTT proposes to start from for Tier 1 are ones that have the potential to heavily invest in communities of color, increased transit reliability and frequency including getting buses out of traffic, and thereby have greatest potential for emissions reductions. In addition to the equity/safety/affordability/options values used in our initial corridor exercise, we used the following tools/information to arrive at this (unranked) Tier 1 recommendation:

- Air toxicity levels around corridors
- Proposed Enhanced Transit Corridors Potential (from Metro’s regional ETC pilot program)
- Meets “Largest potential carbon reduction impact” checklist from Climate Smart Strategy (attached to this packet)

McLoughlin  
82nd Avenue  
SE Foster  
NE/SE 122nd Ave  
Burnside  
SE Division  
Downtown Portland  
NE/SE 181st Ave (not combined with C2C)  
NE/SE 11th/12th Ave  
NE/SE 162nd Ave  
SE Powell

N Mississippi/N Albina  
N Vancouver/Williams  
TV Highway  
SW Farmington Rd  
Pacific Ave/Baseline Street, Forest Grove to Hillsboro  
SE Stark/Washington Street, 60th Ave. to 111th Ave.

GTT encourages Metro staff and task force members to think big on this measure while remaining grounded in the vision of a system designed for people. Depending on the funding mechanism, we have the opportunity to fund projects that touch diverse parts of our region. We urge Metro Council and Metro staff to remain open to the potential of considering more than 8-10 corridors in the 2020 package, especially as specific potential projects, programs and funding mechanisms have not yet been discussed.

To this end, GTT urges task force members to prioritize investing communities that need it the most, transit investments that help us drastically reduce our emissions from the transportation sector, and make it safer for vulnerable users of the road to get around. The list we've proposed uses this people-centered approach, and we encourage you to start there.

### **Next Steps**

GTT will continue to provide the task force analysis on the corridors listed above + potential programs by applying the following lenses:

- Further analysis on which corridors have Enhanced Transit Corridor opportunity and at which stage in the planning/concept they are at
- Overlay of affordable housing information provided by Metro
- Transit ridership data
- True, lived experiences of our members in each county moving along these corridors
- Community-centered approach to programs

We will share this analysis with task force members before the 5/29 meeting and hope to be a resource to you all as you endeavor in this technical and important work. Please don't hesitate to contact us to collaborate and we are happy to share more details on the analysis we've conducted so far.

Thank you all for your continued service and efforts on the task force - we know it is demanding work! Getting There Together appreciates all you do.

Sincerely,

***The Getting There Together Coalition***

<http://www.gettingtheretogether.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gettingtheretogether/>

[April 24, 2019]

Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) Meeting

To: Metro Staff and Transportation Funding Task Force Members

### **Getting There Together | Who We Are**

The Getting There Together (GTT) coalition formed in 2017 in response to growing concerns that the Portland metropolitan region wasn't adequately planning to build the comprehensive infrastructure and transportation system in a way that actually responds to the needs of people who live, work, study, play, pray here. Our coalition is comprised of over 20 member and mission-based organizations in the Metro region that work in and with stakeholders, businesses, and community members in the metro region including communities of color, transit riders, youth, older adults, and the most vulnerable users of the road.

As you all begin diving into the results and discussion on the corridors exercise, we would like to share with you the values and methodology GTT used as a coalition to narrow the corridors for this exercise. We used staff's scoring of the six categories as our framework to choose corridors though we have some concerns about the limited information provided for each, which we will also share below.

### **GTT Methodology | Putting Equity First**

- We weighted Equity at 75% to ensure that communities that have been historically under/disinvested in receive appropriate funding. High equity corridors also have a strong correlation to the need for safety improvement, as well as the availability to provide travel options and naturally occurring affordable housing.
- We then weighted safety/options/affordability each at 50% - this 75-50-50-50 overlay led to a list of 20 corridors.
- We also used air toxicity data from around corridors to prioritize areas most affected by poor air quality, to determine potential to reduce these impacts, which we believe should have been considered as one of the guiding categories. This narrowed our list to six corridors.

### **Corridor List:**

Below are the corridors that come in with at least 75% Equity and at least 50% on Affordability, Options, and Safety (20 corridors total):

**Washington County:** (total 3) (Underlined if also high air toxicity levels)

2. Pacific Ave/Baseline Street, Forest Grove to Hillsboro

4. Tualatin Valley Highway

## 8. SW Farmington Road

### **Multnomah County:** (Underlined if also high air toxicity levels)

29. Downtown Portland (very much dependent on the types of projects)

37. NE/SE 11th/12th Ave., Lloyd Blvd. to Powell Blvd.

41. N/NE Killingsworth St., Greeley Ave. to Lombard St

44. E Burnside St., Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. to Thorburn

50. SE Foster Rd., Powell Blvd. to I-205

52. SE Powell Blvd., Willamette River to 122nd Ave.

53. NE/SE 82nd Ave., north of Powell Blvd.

54. E Burnside St., Thorburn to 122nd

60. SE Stark/Washington Street, 60th Ave. to 111th Ave.

61. NE/SE 102nd Ave., I-84 to Stark St.

64. SE 122nd Ave., Powell Blvd. to Foster Rd.

65. NE/SE 122nd Ave., Sandy Blvd. to Powell Blvd.

66. SE Foster Rd., I-205 to 172nd Ave

67. SE Division St., 7th Ave. to I-205

69. NE/SE 162nd Ave., Sandy Blvd. to Powell Blvd.

72. NE/SE 181st Ave, Sandy Blvd to Yamhill St

73. SE Powell Blvd, 122nd Ave to Burnside Rd

### **Clackamas County** (Corridors of interest that don't meet the 75-50-50-50 threshold):

38. McLoughlin

GTT has other corridors of interests that do not fulfill the 75/50/50/50 criteria, but that are high on the list of corridors with high air toxicity. Please contact us if you are interested or have any questions on those.

### **Moving Forward**

We appreciate Metro staff framing this exercise as a starting point for how the task force and community members are thinking about potential transportation investments for our communities. GTT wants to continue the conversation alongside you all by remaining grounded in the fact that it is first and foremost people who live in these corridors and who we should be serving. To that end, GTT would like to see the following elements also considered as factors in determining priority "corridors":

- Air quality levels alongside the corridors
- Current transit levels and conditions on corridors
- Existence of bike/ped facilities, especially alongside high crash corridors

- Inclusion of age demographics - as a part of the equity scoring. Which corridors have highest % of older adults living alongside them?
- Existing funding and projects on each corridor - which corridors already have funding for projects that advance the values we are basing this analysis on?
- Overlay of plans for affordable housing alongside each corridor so we are solidifying the link between housing and transportation in this measure

GTT looks forward to continuing to partner with you all in this conversation to ensure a strong, community-minded approach to transportation investments. Thank you for the considerable time and thought you all are putting into this process and into better serving our community in getting where they need to go.

Sincerely,

The Getting There Together Coalition

## **Metro's Climate Smart Strategy**

*An operational approach offered by the Getting There Together Coalition*

Use this tool to evaluate climate potential of each corridor - Our suggestion is to focus on largest and moderate carbon impact  
(see attached)

### **Largest carbon impact**

- Do permanent affordable housing investments exist and/or are they likely to exist along this corridor?
  - Invest in walking, biking, and transit connections for residents living in affordable housing.
- Does transit service needs improvement along this corridor?
  - Invest in increased transit service--expanded locations and more frequent stops.
  - Invest in coordinated right-of-way improvements to MAX and bus times
- How many electric charging stations are needed, how many low/no-emissions vehicles need to be purchased to replace current municipal fleets?
  - Invest in electric vehicle charging stations
  - Replace municipal vehicle fleets with low/no emissions vehicles

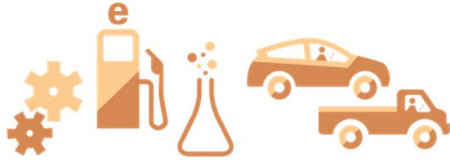
### **Moderate carbon impact**

- Where are active transportation networks are non-existent or need improvement?
  - Invest in networks of walking and biking routes that connect residential, business, employment, schools, cultural centers and nature areas.
- Who is most likely to be carbon-emissions producing when moving around the Portland-metro area?
  - Invest in educational and marketing materials to encourage people to choose to walk, bike, or take mass transit instead of getting in a single occupancy vehicle.
- How do we improve system management and operations?
  - Invest in signal timing and ramp metering, transit signal priority, bus-only lanes, bus pull-outs, incident response detection and clearance



## Strategies Evaluated and Findings

### Climate Smart Strategy | Largest potential carbon reduction impact\*



#### Vehicles and Fuels (Investment)

- Newer, more fuel efficient vehicles
- Low- and zero-emission vehicles
- Reduced carbon intensity of fuels



#### Pricing (Policy)

- Carbon pricing
- Gas taxes
- Per-mile road usage charges (e.g., OReGO)
- Parking management and pricing
- Pay-as-you-drive private vehicle insurance



#### Community Design (Policy with Investment)

- Walkable communities and job centers facilitated by compact land use in combination with walking, biking and transit connections



#### Transit (Investment)

- Expanded transit coverage
- Expanded frequency of service
- Improvements in right-of-way to increase speed and reliability of buses and MAX

### Climate Smart Strategy | Moderate potential carbon reduction impact\*



#### Active Transportation (Investment)

- New biking and walking connections to schools, jobs, downtowns and other community places



#### Travel Information and Incentives (Investment)

- Commuter travel options programs
- Household individualized marketing programs
- Car-sharing and eco-driving techniques



#### System Management and Operations (Investment)

- Variable message signs and speed limits
- Signal timing and ramp metering
- Transit signal priority, bus-only lanes, bus pull-outs
- Incident response detection and clearance

### Climate Smart Strategy | Low potential carbon reduction impact\*



#### Street and Highway Capacity (Investment)

- New lane miles (e.g., general purpose lanes, auxiliary lanes)

Source: *Understanding Our Land Use and Transportation Choices Phase 1 Findings* (January 2012), Metro.