



GETTING THERE TOGETHER

Info@GettingThereTogether.org | GettingThereTogether.org

December 18, 2019

Getting There Together Coalition | Who We Are

The Getting There Together Coalition (the 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 effectively responds to the needs of people who live, work, learn, practice spiritually, and play in the Metro region. The Coalition is comprised of more than 60 member and mission-based organizations in the region that work with stakeholders, businesses, and community members, including communities of color, transit riders, youth, older adults, and the most vulnerable users of the roadway and transportation system.

The Coalition represents many of the people in the community that T2020 transportation improvements would impact and benefit, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide that perspective as you consider which projects to recommend for inclusion in a possible T2020 measure.

Our Approach to Projects

As you approach this critical juncture for making a recommendation on projects across the region for a 2020 funding measure, the Coalition, our 60+ member organizations, and the people we represent across the region urge you to lead with your own values of equity, safety, affordability, and climate. The Task Force's values include: improving safety, prioritizing investments that support communities of color, supporting clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems, and increasing access to opportunity for low-income Oregonians. The Coalition urges you to continue to use a racial equity lens and a community- and people-driven approach in your decision-making, ensuring this measure only includes those projects that will build an equitable and clean transportation system that works for people of all ages and abilities.

What this should look like: Investments must support communities most in need of transportation safety and options, drastically increase transit ridership and reducing emissions through increased transit and community-driven projects that provide options and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled, and help people get where they need to go, safely and quickly. To truly reflect community values and needs, we urge Task Force members to continue to hold these values of equity, safety, affordability, and climate as the community values that should come through in each dollar spent as a result of this measure.

The Coalition conducted a full assessment of the Staff Recommendation and analysis of every proposed project through the lens of equity, safety, affordability and transportation options (as described in [our comments in October](#)) to reach these recommendations.

In order to truly see transformational impacts through this measure, the Coalition supports the Task Force recommendations, which turn T2020 into a transformative first step in addressing our region's transportation needs by doubling down on the corridors where the needs are greatest and investing in Enhanced Transit improvements on every funded corridor. While there is certainly a desire to balance investments geographically, there is also an obligation to support those projects that have clearly articulated community needs and solutions. Leaders in the T2020 process, including Task Force members, need to ensure those projects with clear community need are put forward, and remove from consideration projects where the needs and impact do not match the values above.

Getting There Together Coalition Project Recommendations

Our written comments today track the format proposed by Metro in their December 13th Memo, "Proposed Task Force Amendments to Staff Recommendation for Tier 1 Corridor Investments". In summary, we ask that you vote in support of Package 1; vote to only support parts of Package 2, namely safety and regional planning investments proposed in option (b); vote to support removals proposed in Package 3; and vote in support of Package 4.

- **Package 1 - Consensus Vote:**

"A single vote on most of staff's recommended investments in the Tier 1 corridors, along with all proposed amendments that add or increase funding for transit, safety and active transportation projects."

OUR RECOMMENDATION: Support as proposed

- The Coalition **supports all of these proposed changes**, which includes ETC in all funded corridors and doubles down on TV Hwy, McLoughlin, and 82nd Ave with increased funding. These additions greatly increase both the number of projects that support equity, transit, transit access, active transportation, safety, and affordability along these corridors.

- **Package 2 - Major Corridor Modification:
Sunrise / Highway 212**

OUR RECOMMENDATION: Support option (b - with alterations) to include [Hwy 212 Safety], and [Sunrise Planning & Design] for this corridor.

- The Coalition supports option (b), **with several important considerations:**
 - (4) Hwy 212 Safety: Add/enhance sidewalks, bicycle facilities and crossings to improve access for people walking and biking.
 - The Coalition does not support **ANY** right of way acquisition.
 - (3) Sunrise Planning & Design: Planning/Design for limited access roadway with parallel multi-use path to serve future development.
 - **Regional planning dollars should be constrained to planning to move people through transit, transit access, active transportation, and safety improvements.** These are the types of investments supported by the Task Force's and community values, and will actually result in congestion relief through multimodal shift.

Setting aside the SW Corridor corridor project, the Coalition's recommendations create greater geographical balance of investments, where each county receive roughly the same percentage of dollars that matches each of their regional population percentages.

While the overall cost of the project mix we are recommending is 40% higher than the first Metro Staff Recommendations, we think it is the right place to be as we begin the finance mechanism conversation and determine what the financial realities truly are, as up until now we have been operating under potential limitations. **We should be finding the mix of projects that best serves community values first, then determine whether it is actually too high of a number.**

Thank You!

The future depends on what we do today, and we must continue to center serving the people in our community in getting where they need to go with safe, convenient, and affordable transportation options.

As a coalition we are grateful to be a part of a process to consider serious and transformational investments in our region to help people get to where they need to go, especially as you return to discussing program elements and how they will coordinate with projects on corridors, as well as financing options. We urge you to make decisions today that are specifically designed to benefit the people and communities in our region.

Sincerely,

The Getting There Together Coalition