



## Metro | Making a great place

March, 12, 2015

City of Portland Planning & Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2500  
Portland, OR 97201

Metro staff has appreciated the opportunity to serve on the City's Transportation Expert Group (TEG), which has provided input to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) and the Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) on the development of the City's Transportation System Plan (TSP).

Metro staff supports the efforts of the City to develop a forward looking TSP that will help the City and Region achieve its goals. Some of the specific areas that Metro supports:

- Policies that support focusing project and program investments in 2040 Regional Centers and Corridors
- The project evaluation process designed to achieve climate, equity, health, safety, and economic opportunity outcomes
- Policies combining transportation and parking demand management with transit, bike, and pedestrian investments (consistent with the 2015-16 "short list" of actions to begin implementing the Region's recently adopted Climate Smart Strategy)
- Emphasis on quicker, lower-cost improvements via Transportation System Management (consistent with recommendations from the Climate Smart Strategy).

Finally, one concern that Metro staff has expressed to City staff and the TEG regards the possibility that the City may be backing away from the regional complete streets policy. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) states that all modes need to be accommodated/usable on all streets (except for certain freeways - where a parallel path often provides the bike/ped accommodation). Metro is concerned with the possibility - discussed at the TEG - of shifting away from a Complete Streets concept in Portland policies. Metro is not supportive of a policy that some streets do not need to allow for walking or biking. Metro views this as a step backwards from regional and local objectives encouraging safe and viable options for people not in motor vehicles.

Thanks for the opportunity to show our support for the Portland TSP. We look forward to working with the City in the remaining phases of the TSP update process.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Mermín in blue ink.

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