

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING) RESOLUTION NO. 13-4402
REGIONAL POLICY AND FUNDING)
PRIORITIES FOR 2013 STATE) Introduced by Councilor Carlotta Collette
TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION)

WHEREAS, the governments of the Portland metropolitan region recognize the importance of investing strategically in public infrastructure, particularly transportation infrastructure, as a way to support private investment and economic recovery in these difficult economic times; and

WHEREAS, transportation investments that contribute to economic recovery also bring increased revenues to local and state governments, thereby helping to ease the crisis in public budgets; and

WHEREAS, our region has a track record of creatively financing forward-looking transportation investments that address the needs of both the present and the future, and of combining smart investment with policy innovations that support good jobs, livable communities and a sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing represents the most important transportation investment in the Portland metropolitan region in a generation, providing benefits to the economy, the environment and the safety of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing is poised to receive federal support once the states of Oregon and Washington have secured their share of the overall funding package for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Vision Committee, which in 2008 developed the framework that led to the passage of the landmark 2009 Jobs and Transportation Act, included in that framework a recommendation that the state identify a source of dedicated funding to support multimodal transportation investments that cannot be paid for with highway fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, subsequent efforts have advanced that recommendation by attempting to quantify the funding gaps for various non-roadway transportation modes and proposing potential institutional structures and funding sources to close those gaps; and

WHEREAS, a combination of careful planning and strategic investments supported by local, regional, state and federal resources has helped to make this region the economic engine of the state and an example to the nation; and

WHEREAS, in the face of today's challenges, we need to extend this tradition of leadership by pursuing supportive policy and funding proposals in the 2013 legislative session; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metro Council and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) adopt the following principles to guide the region's approach to transportation issues in the 2013 legislative session:
 - Jobs and Economic Recovery: The local governments of the Portland metropolitan are committed to partnering with others to support economic recovery through the creation and efficient operation of a robust transportation system.
 - Support Multimodal Investment: Oregon should build upon its lottery-backed program of investment in multimodal capital projects that support freight mobility and transit by identifying new, ongoing state funding that supports those projects as well as transit operations and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

- Preserve and Expand Local Options: The transportation challenge will require innovative policy and new funding commitments at all levels of government, including additional local funding to repair and maintain existing transportation facilities. Accordingly, the Legislature should remove existing restrictions on local and regional revenue-raising authority; avoid enacting new limitations or pre-emptions; and explore new structures and authorities that give local governments the flexibility to build, operate and fund transportation systems that support prosperity, livability and sustainability.
2. That the Metro Council and JPACT endorse transportation funding and policy priorities for the 2013 legislative session as reflected in Exhibit A to this resolution.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of January, 2013.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

2013 Regional Transportation Agenda:
Specific Recommendations

Columbia River Crossing – The Columbia River Crossing represents the most important transportation investment in the Portland metropolitan region in a generation, providing benefits to the economy, the environment and the safety of the traveling public. JPACT and the Metro Council urge the Legislature to commit the state’s share of the project finance plan as follows:

- The funding approach must recognize the statewide importance of this project and not come at the expense of other projects in the region.
- The funding approach must reflect a commitment to build the full project, including road, bike, pedestrian and transit elements.
- Improvements intended to mitigate the impact of the project on local communities in the project area should not be deferred until an undefined and unfunded later phase of construction.
- Follow through on the creation of a Community Enhancement Fund.
- The funding package must not extend the current pre-emptions against local gas taxes or registration fees.

ConnectOregon V – Support a fifth round of *ConnectOregon* funding.

Non-roadway funding – Support the creation of a permanent funding stream for non-highway transportation.

