

2050 TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS

JANUARY 2023

Background

For the 2050 Regional Development Guide, all divisions within the Council, including Metropolitan Transportation Services, will be using the following shared definitions and structure for policy plans:

- **Values** are core beliefs (principles) that guide how the Council carries out work.
- **Vision** is the overarching description of what we want to achieve for the region.
- **Goals** are broad directional statements that more specifically describe the desired end states for the region.
- **Objectives** are the achievable results that advance each regional goal.
- **Policies** are the statement of intent and approach to regional issues or topics, independently and in its roles with partners.
- **Actions** are the specific strategies or activities to implement policies and achieve goals.

These definitions vary from those used in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), which included goals and objectives but had strategies instead of policies and actions. The primary role of the 2050 TPP Advisory Work Group (AWG), comprised of elected and appointed officials from across the region, is guiding the development of the 2050 TPP's goals and objectives. The 2050 TPP Technical Working Group (TWG) will have the primary role of guiding the development of policies and actions.

Process

The 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) is using a three-phase approach to evaluate and recommend specific policy language:

- Phase I evaluated the existing 2040 TPP for potential policies, grouped them by functional area like mode or impact, and started to delineate the difference between policies and actions to be consistent with the Regional Development Guide's updated structure. Draft content for this phase was presented to the 2050 TPP TWG in August and October 2022.
- Phase II will begin to identify gaps, opportunities, and redundancy in policies and actions by considering stakeholder input including the 2050 TPP TWG, themes in scenario planning, recommendations from transportation planning studies, and the 2050 TPP goals and objectives¹.
- Phase III will develop new policies and actions for consideration, look to streamline or reduce policies and actions, and continue to refine the policies and actions until the 2050 TPP is adopted in 2024.

Throughout Phase I, Metropolitan Transportation Services staff reviewed the 2040 TPP and worked with the Technical Working Group, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Working Group, and the Transit Planning Working Group to identify formal and informal policies. These policy topic areas and concepts were then evaluated to determine regional role, current implementation, and potential implementation.

¹ The 2050 TPP draft goals and objectives will be developed throughout the first half of 2023 through separate but related stakeholder engagement efforts.

Policy Analysis Document Description

To transition to Phase II, staff has completed the preliminary policy analysis of the 2040 TPP. This information will be provided to members of the TWG to review and provide feedback.

The document identifies several important considerations in defining policies for the 2050 TPP. It will be used to both disseminate existing policy and gather feedback on policy gaps and opportunities. The following are descriptive elements in the document.

- Policy – A documented existing policy that was identified through the Phase I work. These will also remain draft policy statements for consideration in the 2050 TPP.
- Regional Role – A statement or set of statements that lays out the regional nature of the policy and the role or authority of regional policy in directing action.
- Existing Implementation – A list of the ways currently used to implement the policy focused on regional or Council implementation. The primary means for implementation should be based on the “Regional Role,” which can vary from funding prioritization to comprehensive planning to best practice guidance. These will be the basis for the identification of “actions” in future phases of the work, with actions being tied to specific implementing partners.
- Potential Implementation – A list of ways that could be used to implement the policy. Similar to “Existing Implementation,” these could be the basis for the identification of “actions” in future phases of the work, with actions being tied to specific implementing partners.

As described previously, the policies are currently grouped by mode or impact until the 2050 TPP goals and objectives are draft in spring 2023.

Next Steps

The Policy Analysis Document will be shared with 2050 TPP Technical Working Group members in February 2023. Members are being asked to provide feedback on the document with a particular focus on identifying concepts and/or topic areas that may be considered policy gaps or new policies. The feedback on policies should identify the role(s) the Council has in administering this policy as well as the implementation methods (actions) that could be used by the Council and its transportation partners.

Additional prompts to consider in identifying policy concepts and topic areas:

- What policies do we need to better achieve the identified outcomes for the region?
- What tools or actions would be helpful or necessary for implementation of the policies?