



WELCOME! CONNECT MID-COLUMBIA

2021

Purpose



Enhance the Mid-Columbia **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** with a more robust conversation around our regional transportation priorities and needs.

Ensure strong integration between transportation and economic development

Provide a coordinated approach to regional transportation issues and opportunities; additional forum for conversation

Process Overview

- **CEDS Transportation Goal Development:**
 - Strategies and Actions
 - Including transportation policy issues
 - Project Lists
 - Identify transportation-related plans to consult
 - Review projects based on evaluation criteria
- **Next Steps:**
 - Advocacy Needed
 - Funding Opportunities to Target
 - Others

CEDS Vision and Goals Overview

2022 Draft Vision:

- A Mid-Columbia region with a resilient, thriving, sustainable, rural economy that supports equitable access to diverse business opportunities that act in harmony with the area's unique qualities, values, cultural and natural resources.

2022 Goal Areas:

- Strong Businesses
- Robust Workforce
- Resilient Infrastructure
- Powerful Regional Collaboration

2017 Plan Status

Infrastructure: Transportation Action Plan

Our goal is to “provide a safe and efficient regional transportation system to enhance the livability and economic vitality of the Mid-Columbia region.”

	Collaborators	Timeline
4.1 Coordinate transportation investments to support the region’s economies and communities.		
4.2 Advocate to enhance federal, <u>state</u> and private investments into transportation.		
4.7.1 Identify opportunities to advance regional transportation priorities in a potential Oregon Transportation Package.	Local govts- counties, cities, ports, transportation providers	Current session
4.7.2 Pursue Federal Lands Access Program funding options.	TransLink and providers, Hist Hwy, DOTs	Next round
4.7.3 Identify and pursue opportunities through federal transportation programs	Local govts, Hist Hwy, Ports, DOTs	Current session
4.3 Maintain, <u>preserve</u> and enhance existing infrastructure to improve the transport of goods and movement of people.		
4.3.1 Improve connections between rail, air, highway, and river systems.	Regional airport, port, DOTs, FHWA	Long term
4.3.2 Pursue immediate truck parking opportunities to support regional economic development.	Cities, counties, county ec dev, ODOT	Short term
4.8.3 Commit resources to address facility modernization critical to the overall transportation system.	DOTs, counties, cities, Ports	Mid-long term

4.4 Identify, seek funding and complete priority highway, <u>road</u> and bridge transportation infrastructure projects.		
4.9.1 Participate in the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) and Lower John Day ACT to identify priority projects. Integrate annually to this strategy with regional project prioritization.	Local govts, ACT, SW WA RTC, <u>TransLink</u> and providers, MCEDD, DOTs	Immediate, ongoing
4.9.2 Focus on key corridors and market roads necessary for the transport of goods. Address bottlenecks on the road system and bi-state connections.	Local govts, ACT, SW WA RTC, <u>TransLink</u> and providers, MCEDD, DOTs	
4.10 Support regional airport enhancements.		
4.10.1 Further develop the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, serving key healthcare and tech businesses. Further develop capacity of the airport as a bi-state firefighting base.	Col Gorge Regional Airport, Klickitat County, City TD, industry	Mid term
4.10.2 Identify opportunities to further Goldendale airport's potential as a distribution center.	City Goldendale, Klickitat County <u>ec dev</u>	Mid term
4.10.3 Support enhancements to the Hood River <u>Jernstedt</u> airport.	Port of Hood River	Mid-term
4.11 Enhance the Columbia River system transportation system (<u>eg</u> docks to support commerce and cruise ships)		
4.12 Increase access to cargo and passenger rail.		
4.12.1 Advocate for facilities at Amtrak passenger rail stops.	Local governments- WA counties, cities, MCEDD	Mid-long term
4.13 Improve safety of regional transportation network.		
4.13.1 Address parking, issues, especially along Hwy 14 and at access points (<u>e.g.</u> trailheads) that impact safety.	WSDOT	Mid term
4.14 Increase capacity of regional transportation network with efficient and accessible bi-state transit options.		

4.14.1 Address priorities expressed in Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plans.	TransLink and providers, RTC	Immediate-long term
4.14.2 While there are practical limitations to dramatic increases in transit, focus on incremental and sustainable success on both the local and regional scale for transit both inter and intra community.	TransLink and providers, RTC, DOTs	Ongoing
4.14.3 Actively engage and follow-through with feasibility assessments for fixed route transit.	Local governments, providers	Long term
4.14.4 Further bolster the Gorge TransLink Alliance to support a seamless bi-state transit system.	TransLink Alliance and providers	Immediate-long term
4.14.5 Support transportation options programs through Drive Less Connect.	MCEDD	Ongoing
4.14.6 Facilitate employment transportation needs; coordinating vanpools and pursuing transportation options.	MCEDD, Industry	Ongoing
4.14.7 Build awareness of available services.	TransLink, MCEDD , providers	Short term-Ongoing
4.15 Provide modal options with facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.		
4.15.1 Support completion of the Historic Columbia River Highway trail.	Hist Hwy	Advocacy: immediate; completion: long term
4.15.2 Further facilitate Gorge Hubs facilities.	Gorge Hubs communities, Hist Hwy, MCEDD, ODOT	Short term
4.15.3 Assess opportunities and develop strategies for all bridges to enable bike/pedestrian access	Ports, DOTs	Long term
4.15.4 Complete a usage study for impact of pedestrian traffic and tourism.	TBD	Long term

2021 CEDS Transportation Projects

Rank	Project
1-OR	Hood River Interstate Bridge
9-OR	Bridge of the Gods Maintenance
2-Skamania County	Columbia Avenue Realignment in Stevenson
8-Skamania County	First Street Traffic Calming & Sidewalk Pedestrian Path Connection in Stevenson
10-Skamania County	Stevenson – Upper Russell Avenue Upgrades
8-Sherman County	Wasco Road Resurfacing Project
6-Klickitat County	Maple Street Improvements at Bingen Point Industrial Park
9-Klickitat County	Goldendale Municipal Airport Improvements
6-Hood River County	Port of Cascade Locks Recreational Trail
9-Hood River County	City of Hood River Intersection Improvements
6-Wasco County	Fuel Farm Upgrades at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport
9-Wasco County	Maupin Donkey Trail
10-Wasco County	Mill Creek Greenway in The Dalles

Resilient Infrastructure

- **Draft Goal:** Communities and businesses of the Gorge have reliable, resilient access to infrastructure, including attainable housing, internet access, and emergency services, to support future population demands and economic opportunities.
 - **Transportation Goal:** Provide a safe and efficient regional transportation system to enhance the livability and economic vitality of the Mid-Columbia region.
 - **Components:**
 - Assets (Broadly)
 - Challenges (Broadly)
 - Issues (multi-jurisdictional, regional, bi-state)
 - Projects (Key, Regional)

Assets: Market Access, Modal Diversity

Interstates and Highways both East/West and North/South

Airports

- Hood River and Columbia Gorge Regional airports
- Close Proximity to PDX

Rail Service for transport of goods in both OR and WA

River access, including barge transportation along the Columbia

Bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems

Challenges

- Aging infrastructure- ability to maintain/sustain key assets
- Business development requires enhancing transportation infrastructure to support key industries
- Constrained financial resources
- Limited rail options, particularly passenger rail
- Growth and congestion, including from tourism
- Gaps in public transportation, bike and pedestrian systems
- Safety concerns
- Rural/dispersed nature of the region
- Long commutes, partially created by housing constraints
- Emergency preparedness

Modified Goal: Transportation

Infrastructure Goal: Communities and businesses of the Gorge have reliable, resilient access to infrastructure, including attainable housing, internet access, and emergency services, to support future population demands and economic opportunities.

Specific Transportation Infrastructure Goal: Provide a safe and efficient regional transportation system to enhance the livability and economic vitality of the Mid-Columbia region.

Strategy Elements

Provide a safe and efficient regional transportation system to enhance the livability and economic vitality of the Mid-Columbia region.

- Coordinate transportation investments to support the region's economies and communities.
- Advocate to enhance federal, state and private investments into transportation.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance existing infrastructure to improve the transport of goods and movement of people.
- Identify, seek funding and complete priority highway, road and bridge transportation infrastructure projects.
- Support regional airport enhancements.
- Enhance the Columbia River system transportation system (eg docks to support commerce and cruise ships)
- Increase access to cargo and passenger rail.
- Improve safety of regional transportation network.
- Increase capacity of regional transportation network with efficient and accessible bi-state transit options.
- Provide modal options with facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Process: 2022 CEDS Projects

Start with what exists: Ground up solicitation; use existing ACT/RTC priorities

Prioritization Criteria:

- Connection to CEDS strategies
- Community ranking
- Economic impact
- Regional significance/ impact
- Geographic disbursement
- Potential availability of funding sources
- Readiness to proceed