

Attachment B: Draft Policy Considerations

Draft policy considerations are grounded in the guiding principles and organized according to the draft strategies (Attachment A). Staff has also included policy considerations for transportation impact fees based on Council discussion in late 2020. Staff will revise the draft policy considerations based on public input (Attachment C) and direction from Council.

Policy Considerations: General

- **Sustainability:** Achieving climate action goals requires transportation investments that encourage a shift from driving alone by providing convenient, safe, and accessible options.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Creating an equitable and inclusive transportation system calls for actions that support mobility, connectivity, and access. It calls for decisions to prioritize an affordable and effective public transportation network that links people to employment, education, and health and social services.
- **Tech Forward:** Technological innovations are evolving quickly and will likely transform our transportation systems. Forward-thinking planning will enhance our City's resiliency and allow for innovations ranging from shared and on-demand mobility, to more accurate real-time travel information, to a reduced reliance on personal vehicles. Technology may also impact freight delivery systems, fleet management, and the use and management of curb space.
- **Resiliency:** Transportation is the backbone of our economy, connecting people, freight, jobs, and services. Resilient, multimodal planning will support a smooth transition to alternatives when unexpected events impact one or more travel modes. Building resilient infrastructure will also accelerate recovery after catastrophic events. Revenue should come from multiple streams and mechanisms, including user-based fees, to manage and improve the transportation system even during times of economic uncertainty or shifts in development trends.
- **Safety:** Design standards and operating principles should prioritize safety for all users. Consistent with the principle of equity and inclusion, safety analyses should prioritize the health and safety of the most vulnerable users of the transportation system because systems that are safe for the most vulnerable are safe for everyone.

Policy Considerations: Orient Around Light Rail

Deploy transit service to connect people to light rail. When light rail service begins in 2023 (Overlake) and 2024 (Downtown and Southeast Redmond), it will be the spine of Redmond's public transportation system. Concurrent with the Redmond 2050 effort, City staff should continue working with Metro, Sound Transit, and the community to develop changes to bus transit that best serve the Redmond community going forward.

Prioritize investments that improve access to light rail. To best leverage the region's investment in high capacity transit, Redmond should consider prioritizing mobility investments that improve access to light rail and the mobility it affords.

These two policy considerations support *sustainability* by encouraging transit use; they support *equity and inclusion* by making more opportunities available to more people; they support *resiliency* by increasing the number of ways that people can get around Redmond; and they support *safety* by encouraging use of modes other than driving.

Encourage transit-oriented development in light rail station areas. To achieve the community’s vision for focusing growth in urban centers, and to best leverage the region’s investment in high-capacity transit, Redmond should encourage transit-oriented development, including and opportunities for affordable housing, in light rail station areas. This policy consideration supports *sustainability* by encouraging lower carbon footprint lifestyles; it supports *equity and inclusion* by locating more affordable housing closer to public transit and the mobility it affords.

Reform parking regulations around light rail stations to maximize desired uses like housing and employment. The combination of new light rail service and redeployed bus service will enable more households to choose to own fewer vehicles or no vehicles. The desire to accommodate most of Redmond’s growth in urban centers also argues for balancing the need for parking with the need to accommodate housing and jobs. Therefore, Redmond should reform parking regulations around light rail stations to maximize desired uses like housing and employment. This policy consideration supports *sustainability* by encouraging use of travel modes other than driving; it supports *equity and inclusion* by increasing the affordability of housing near transit; it can also be supported by a *technology forward* approach, which can help people find available parking faster.

Policy Considerations: Maintain Transportation Infrastructure

Identify level-of-service requirements and funding for long-term maintenance and operations of infrastructure. Currently, the City of Redmond is not keeping up with the transportation maintenance needs of the system particularly in the areas of pavement management and accessible pedestrian facilities. Redmond needs to formalize a system for identifying and budgeting for the long-term maintenance and operations of transportation infrastructure. This closely aligns with the principle of *sustainability*; it also promotes *equity and safety*.

Maximize the cost-effectiveness of transportation system maintenance expenditures. Maintaining the existing system will become an increasing financial challenge as Redmond’s infrastructure ages. Part of meeting that challenge will be investing wisely in system maintenance. This policy aligns with the principle of *technology forward*, to the degree that advances in technology can be used to maximize the impacts of strategic investments. It also supports the principle of *safety*, because investments in maintenance result in a safer transportation system.

Design and build infrastructure that is resilient and can be efficiently maintained. *Resiliency* and the ability to efficiently maintain a system are the result of thoughtful planning and design. Redmond needs to better plan for, design, and build transportation infrastructure considering resiliency – both in terms of travel mode diversification and the ability to withstand and recover from catastrophic events – and efficient maintenance. This policy consideration closely aligns with the principle of *sustainability*; it also aligns with *technology forward* as information is applied to improve efficiency in maintenance.

Policy Considerations: Improve Travel Choices and Mobility

Complete modal networks. Redmond has adopted vehicle, bicycle, freight, and transit modal networks. Continuing this policy to complete the modal networks supports *equity and inclusion* by making more mobility choices available to more people; it supports *resiliency* by diversifying the transportation system; it supports *sustainability* by making mobility less reliant on fossil fuels; it supports *safety* by eliminating network gaps.

Two policy considerations are elements of completing modal networks and support the same principles described above:

- **Improve pedestrian and bicycling connections within and between neighborhoods, and**
- **Invest in bus transit speed, access, and reliability.**

Maximize the use of transportation infrastructure through transportation demand management programs. Making the most of the existing transportation systems maximizes the value of past capital investments while making more mobility choices available to more travelers. This policy consideration supports the principles of *technology forward*, as data is harnessed to improve the efficient use of infrastructure; and *sustainability*, as travelers make choices that have less negative environmental impacts.

Manage limited right-of-way and curb space to achieve community goals. Improving travel choices and mobility will require Redmond to make thoughtful decisions in how limited right-of-way is allocated to various uses. These decisions should be guided by community goals for land use, economic vitality, mobility, and more, and should align with the principles of *sustainability, equity and inclusion, technology forward, resiliency, and safety*.

Policy Considerations: Enhance Freight and Service Mobility

Complete the freight modal network. The freight modal network provides for the movement of goods and services to and through Redmond. This policy consideration aligns especially with the principle of *resiliency*, as the network is critical to economic well-being.

Monitor freight and service delivery patterns and adjust transportation system operations if warranted. This policy consideration calls for continued monitoring of travel patterns in an era of change in how goods and services are delivered. This consideration supports the principles of *technology forward* – using information and technology to inform decisions and respond to system failures, and *resiliency* insofar as Redmond makes adjustments that make the system more resilient.

Policy Considerations: Impact Fees

Consider waiving or reducing transportation impact fees for affordable housing. State law allows cities to exempt or reduce transportation impact fees for housing affordable to those earning up to 80 percent of area median income. For reductions exceeding 80 percent, the City must pay the remainder of the impact fee that would otherwise be due from another non-impact fee account. The City should consider whether to allow reductions or exemptions, and if so, the criteria by which exemptions would be granted.

Consider waiving transportation impact fees for uses with a broad public purpose. State law allows cities to exempt uses with a broad public purpose from transportation impact fees. The City must pay the impact fee that would otherwise be due from another non-impact fee account. The City should consider whether to allow exemptions, and if so, the criteria for evaluating and approving exemption requests.

The two impact fee policy considerations align with the principle of *equity and inclusion* in that they could decrease the cost of providing affordable housing or other uses with a broad public purpose; they

align with the principle of *resiliency* in that they could result in a more diverse mix of uses serving a broad public purpose that would buffer the community from the impacts of acute or chronic stressors.