

# City of Portland Bureau of Transportation

## Incorporating Health into the City's update of the Transportation System Plan (TSP)

### The project

The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) is charged with updating its TSP in 2012/2013 and is interested in addressing how transportation impacts health and equity. Between January 2011 and May 2012, PBOT facilitated a group of health and equity stakeholders to work to improve the TSP. The effort looked to promote improved health equity outcomes as well as educate a unique group of stakeholders on transportation planning and processes.

### Important definitions

The HETT found it important to define health equity and equity for our work. Because of the timing of the project, the chosen definitions are not necessarily consistent with the Portland Plan, but were tailored to help guide the workgroup:

**Health Equity:** The absence of systematic disparities in health between groups with different levels of underlying social advantage or disadvantage.

**Equity:** Equitable transportation policies are policies that increase the accessibility of transportation and its benefits to current and historically underserved populations, including people of color, people experiencing poverty, people with disabilities, and people who experience language barriers.<sup>1</sup>

### What we did

The team completed two tasks in creating usable recommendations for PBOT's TSP team:

1. **Policy recommendations and document edits.** The TSP team selected a subset of TSP chapters to comment on. These chapters were chosen for their ability to be changed (some chapters are a little less flexible given state or regional requirements) and their applicability to health equity. For selected chapters, the TSP team wrote individual memos that recommended conceptual changes, additions, policy changes, and formatting suggestions.
2. **Project prioritization criteria and framework.** The workgroup created health equity criteria and a framework to score projects based on their impacts on vulnerable populations, active transportation, safety, air toxins, and role in the larger transportation network. The team created this scoring framework with the intention that it could be modified for other desired topics (e.g., level of service, fiscal responsibility, etc.).

### How it will be used

The workgroup's recommendations will be integrated into the "Discussion Draft" of the Transportation System Plan for staff, PEG members, and community members to comment on. In addition, the criteria and framework will be a starting place for Comprehensive Plan staff and stakeholders as they look to offer a transparent method for project selection and prioritization.

### For more information

The complete document: [ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/PBOT/Sara\\_TSP/Final%20Document/](ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/PBOT/Sara_TSP/Final%20Document/)

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<sup>1</sup> Our specified populations were inspired by Upstream Public Health's Transportation Health Equity Principles, which can be found at [upstreampublichealth.org](http://upstreampublichealth.org).