



Regional emergency transportation routes (ETR) update

Updating the region's emergency transportation routes

Natural disasters can happen anytime, and the transportation system needs to be prepared to withstand them and to facilitate life-saving and life-sustaining activities.



Project overview

The purpose of this project is to update the designated regional Emergency Transportation Routes (ETRs) for the five-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region, which includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington. The last update occurred in 2006.

Why now?

First designated in 1996, regional ETRs are priority routes targeted during an emergency for rapid damage assessment and debris-clearance and used to facilitate life-saving and life-sustaining response activities.

The current regional ETRs were established in an MOU between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Port of Portland, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties and the City of Portland in 2006.

Since 2006, new technology, data and mapping have greatly expanded our understanding of hazard risks in the region. The project will also consider these risks and priorities for emergency response, including transport of first responders (e.g., police, fire and emergency medical services), fuel, essential supplies and patients. Access to critical facilities and services, especially for vulnerable populations will also be considered.

Desired project outcomes

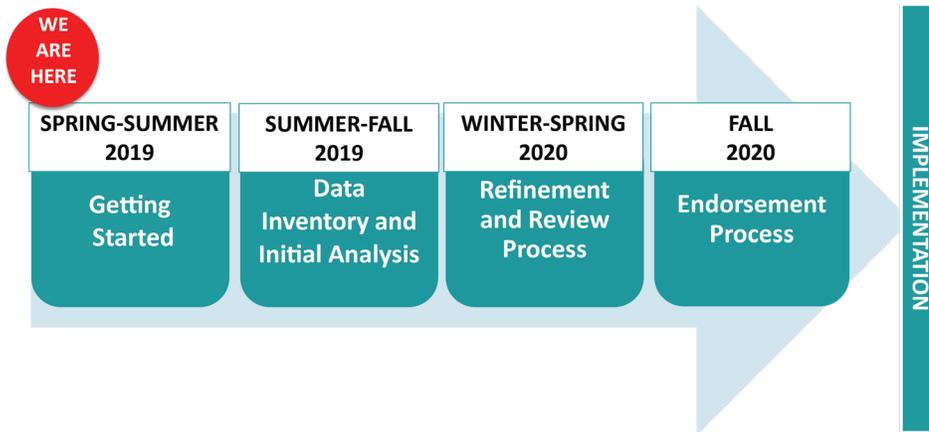
The project's primary outcome is to deliver an updated map of regional ETRs that more accurately reflects our current hazard risks (seismic, landslide, flood and fire risks, in particular), new and/or improved transportation facilities and map updates identified by state and local agencies during individual review of ETR designations across the region.

The ETR project will deliver an updated regional ETR map and data in ArcGIS platform, a list of ETR corridors and accompanying report and recommendations for use by state, regional and local entities in planning for resiliency, recovery and emergency response.

The ETR update will also:

- Raise the level of visibility of ETRs in transportation planning for emergencies, disasters and significant events
- Improve understanding of the resilience of ETRs to withstand changing environments and quickly restore normal operations
- Facilitate informed dialogs and planning between transportation and other key stakeholders involved in emergency planning
- Strengthen regional partnerships around resiliency, recovery and enhanced transportation networks

Draft ETR project timeline



Partnerships and collaboration

The regional ETR update project is co-led by the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) at the City of Portland and Metro, but will be supported by a number of local, regional and state partners, as well as a consultant and Portland State University graduate assistant.

The project will rely on existing RDPO and Metro technical and policy committees and working groups as well as county-level coordinating committees to engage individual cities within each county in a coordinated manner.

The ETR update process will engage and consult with transportation, emergency management and public works departments of each county and the City of Portland (via the RDPO's working groups for these disciplines).

In addition, ODOT, WSDOT, as well as the Metro Council, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), Southwest Regional Transportation Council (RTC), TriMet, SMART, C-TRAN and DOGAMI will also play a key role in the update.

Other agencies and groups will be engaged and consulted as key stakeholders due to their roles in emergency response and/or critical infrastructure and social services for vulnerable populations, including:

- the Northwest Oregon Health Preparedness Organization (NWHPO)
- RDPO Fire/EMS work group
- RDPO Public Works work group
- paratransit providers
- law enforcement
- ports and other special districts
- water and utility providers, such as Portland General Electric (PGE), Pacific Power and NW Natural, among others.

Timeline and decision-making

The regional ETR update project began in April 2019 and is expected to be completed in January 2021.

Project recommendations will be brought forward for review and endorsement consideration by regional policymakers, including the RDPO Steering Committee, the RDPO Policy Committee, the Metro Council, JPACT and the RTC.

This project is a collaboration between public, private and non-profit stakeholders, co-led by the five-county, bi-state Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and Metro, the metropolitan planning organization designated by the Governor of Oregon to serve the urban portions of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Funding for this project is being provided by an Urban Areas Security Initiative grant.

A project website is under development.

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