



The Value of Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to expediting Metro's creation of an integrated mobility network to meet our region's growing demand and our customers' changing needs and expectations.

We will continue to seek and foster partnerships that help us deliver service growth and expansion, build and deliver transit-supportive infrastructure, and offer innovative mobility services and products that complement high-capacity transit. We also rely on partnerships for building ridership and increasing access to the system.

As a partner, we have a reputation for being transparent, easy to work with, and nimble. We work to understand our partners' needs and help meet them when possible.

Partnering with others will help us leverage and integrate regional resources, gain system efficiencies that benefit customers, make smart and strategic investments, streamline our processes, and reduce costs. Whether it's through working with major employers to attract their employees to transit or

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Strategies to expand our partnership opportunities

- 1 Centralize partnership information, guidance, and agreements/contracts.
- 2 Establish a one-stop shop for employer partners to access Metro products and share solutions for regional mobility.
- 3 Define partnerships more formally: for jurisdictional partnerships, Metro will look for a commitment of resources (in-kind, staff, financial, etc.) and mutual accountability for achieving the goal.
- 4 Prioritize partnerships that help achieve Metro's highest priorities and deliver on the vision for an expanded, regional mobility network laid out in METRO CONNECTS, Metro's long-range transportation plan.
- 5 Foster partnerships with targeted cities to advance equity and social justice.
- 6 Develop policies and guidelines to provide consistency and reduce confusion in developing partnership agreements.
- 7 Work with regional partners to improve and expand the high-capacity fixed-route bus and rail network, strengthening public transit's role as the backbone of regional mobility.
- 8 Partner with private mobility providers to complement high-capacity transit and improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of flexible-route and demand-response services (i.e., first- and last-mile services).

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partnering with jurisdictions to build bus stops, dedicated transit lanes, and customer amenities, partnerships amplify our capacity to efficiently deliver regional mobility solutions.

We've made a commitment to advance equity and social justice by creating partnerships with community-based organizations who serve historically disadvantaged populations, to ensure that their voices shape our policies, services, and programs. In our contracting and capital delivery, we give greater weight to proposers who are—or partner with—women/minority owned businesses and/or community-based organizations.

And on our employee development side, we partner with the trades and vocational schools to train our workforce and provide career development opportunities. We will be working to expand this type of partnership in the next biennium.

Partnerships require clarity of purpose and often a commitment of resources from both parties, as well as mutual trust and accountability. We recognize that some partners have more resources for collaborative efforts than others, and remain committed to serving the county equitably. Metro has hundreds of coordinated activities with partners, ranging from contracted services for single products to complex agreements with transit partner agencies for capital projects and operating services.

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