PORTLAND METROPOLITAN REGION OVERVIEW

Tom Kloster, AICP
Transportation Planning Manager
Metro | Portland, Oregon
PORTLAND’S ECONOMY
**WHAT IS METRO?**

- Elected Regional Government
- Manages growth, transportation, regional parks, solid waste, regional facilities
- Serves as MPO for Portland region
- Allocates federal transportation funds to 25 cities and counties
PORTLAND BEFORE WWII

Portland achieved much of its vision, with a multi-modal system of transportation serving a thriving city
POST-WAR HIGHWAYS

• The National Defense Highway System is launched after World War II, and transforms the Portland landscape

• Farm towns across the region suddenly become bedroom communities when new highways link them to Portland
PORTLAND’S BACKLASH

A Portland backlash forms against a plan for massive freeway building that is beginning to destroy urban neighborhoods.
1972 DOWNTOWN PLAN

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt leads reform movement, and development of Portland’s innovative downtown plan:

- emphasis on transit-oriented development

- 24-hour downtown with more housing and street retail

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt
**Senate Bill 100**

- Legislature adopts pioneering 1973 statewide planning program to limit sprawl and protect forest and farms

- Legislation requires local plans to meet statewide goals; creates LCDC

- Urbanization now focused inside urban growth boundaries
ONE MORE BATTLE . . .

1989 bypass freeway proposed in rapidly growing Washington County
THE LUTRAQ STUDY

- The Western Bypass proposal frames a new debate on regional growth management

- 1000 Friends of Oregon proposes LUTRAQ alternative to status quo

- Linking land use and transportation planning becomes new mandate for regional plans
2040 CONCEPTS

2040 Growth Concept Adopted in 1995
2040 GROWTH CONCEPT

- 50-year vision for managing region’s growth
- Incorporates best parts of “Concepts for Growth options
- Builds on lessons learned from Portland’s downtown plan
VMT: Our Bottom Line

Portland per capita daily vehicle miles traveled, compared to cities with similar populations

Graph showing trends in Portland per capita daily vehicle miles traveled compared to other cities with similar populations. The graph includes data from various years from 1980 to 2006.

All cities shown are within +/- 100,000 of Portland's 2006 population. The average shown is for the 36 U.S. urban areas, with the exception of Portland, that have 2006 populations of over 1 million and less than 3 million. Source: U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Highway Statistics, Table H-12, "Urbanized Areas - Selected Characteristics," 1980-2006.
Tom Kloster, AICP
Transportation Planning Manager
tom.kloster@oregonmetro.gov