



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

## Strategic program - draft

### Equitable clean transportation access

*Investing \$25 million over five years to increase access to transportation options through the expansion of the Transportation Wallet, which offers a package of transportation credits including transit passes, bike or scooter-share ride credit, and rideshare or taxi ride credit.*

Mobility provides essential access to job opportunities, family and social activities, and serves basic needs for accessing food, shelter, and medical care. Increasing an individual's travel options through transportation incentives can reduce the burden of transportation costs, increase access to opportunities that improve an individual's quality of life, and reduce carbon emissions by increasing access to clean transportation.

This program increases access to existing and new mobility options for PCEF priority populations through the expansion of the Transportation Wallet, a Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) program which offers a package of free transportation options like transit passes, bike or scooter-share ride credit, and rideshare or taxi ride credit. This program will enroll income-qualified participants through partnerships with community-based organizations including PCEF-funded organizations. The program will include community outreach and education on how to use different transportation modes, program evaluation for continuous improvement, and convening of community groups to provide input into the planning and design of the program.

### Outcomes, opportunity, and metrics

The **outcomes** of the strategic program are to:

1. Reduce fossil fuel based single-occupancy trips
2. Reduce the barriers to using transportation options, like cost, technology access, banking requirements, and low-income verification
3. Increase usage of transit and shared mobility services (bikeshare, electric scooters, etc.)
4. Reduce carbon emissions
5. Reduce financial barriers to accessing jobs, food, and healthcare

**Opportunity:** Transportation is on average the second highest household expense after housing. Low-income households face a larger transportation cost burden and experience a gap in reliable and affordable transportation options. Mobility wallets are an emerging approach to enhance transportation options while addressing financial barriers to travel by providing individuals with funds to pay for a range of mobility options, including transit and shared modes, at their discretion.

PBOT's Transportation Wallet: Access for All program offers selected affordable housing sites a package of free transportation options, like transit passes, bike or scooter-share ride credit, and

rideshare (Uber/Lyft) or taxi ride credit. The program reduces the barrier to using transportation options and allows users the flexibility to the transportation options that fits their needs. An early evaluation of the Transportation Wallet program showed that participants had an increased usage of new mobility services (including bike share, e-scooter, and Uber/Lyft), enhanced accessibility of travel modes, and reduced stress related to travel needs. Similar programs operating in Oakland and South Los Angeles have shown comparable outcomes including a reduction of drive-alone trips and improved mental health and quality of life from relief of burdens associated with paying for transit.

This program expands the Transportation Wallet: Access for All program by increasing the number of participants enrolled in the program.

**Metrics** to be tracked and reported include:

- Spending by merchant category (bikeshare, public transit, e-scooter, etc.)
- Travel patterns/shift through pre-program and mid-program survey of travel modes
- Reduction in single-occupancy vehicle trips
- Usage of shared mobility services including memberships, frequency of use, and accessibility

## Direct benefits and social impact

Financial Benefits and Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced transportation costs for low-income households.</li> </ul>
Equity Accountability Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A PCEF-managed workgroup on transportation decarbonization will guide the development of the program.</li> </ul>
Timing of benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits of cost-savings and carbon emissions begin accruing to wallet holders immediately as soon as program is expanded in early 2024.</li> </ul>
Co-benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased flexibility in transportation options.</li> <li>• Increased mental and physical well-being when using active transportation options.</li> </ul>

## Partner roles

PBOT will manage and administer the Transportation Wallet: Access for All expansion. PBOT will consult and collaborate with a PCEF-managed transportation decarbonization workgroup that will be convened over a 24-month period to advise on transportation decarbonization community responsive grants and strategic programs.

The transportation workgroup will provide input on RFPs generated by the PCEF transportation decarbonization programs, community engagement approach, and related topics using PCEF's equity + climate framework. The workgroup is advisory to Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) program decisionmakers and is intended to foster more equitable outcomes as this program is being delivered. The workgroup will be

supported by a Strategy Team, which is comprised of staff from BPS/PCEF, PBOT, and at least one community-based organization representative. The Strategy Team will help facilitate discussions and create meeting agendas.

## **Workforce and Contractor Development and Equity**

Support workforce opportunities through reducing financial burdens for PCEF-funded programs?

## **Timeline and implementation**

An interagency agreement is anticipated to be developed by December 2023 to implement work through 2028. A ramp up period is expected to expand the program with the first two years including time for planning. The PCEF-managed workgroup will be convened following the approval of the Climate Investment Plan.

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