

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Jo Ann Hardesty Commissioner **Chris Warner** Director

May 16, 2022

Dear Modal Committee Members and Alumni,

We write today to thank you wholeheartedly for your current and past service to the City of Portland and to ask for your help to shape an important future.

Thank you to everyone who has spoken honestly in your committee meetings, exit interviews, and staff meetings. We have been listening to your concerns about the current modal committee process and structure. In light of these concerns, we believe now is the right time to start a modal committee evaluation. Over the next year, we will dig in to better understand what is working and not working and to explore alternative approaches together.

As you know, much has changed in Portland transportation since city council established our modal committees for bicycles, pedestrians, and freight 30 years ago. New modes have emerged that were unimaginable a decade ago. Meanwhile, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has increased our focus on equitable engagement and access to decision making, and adopted a Vision Zero policy. In recent years, the city adopted new policies for broadening the voices represented on city advisory bodies and set aggressive climate goals. This includes standardized committee operations around term limits, recruiting, as well as reinforcing the roles of committee members as public officials.

An outside consultant, JLA Public Involvement, has been hired to support the modal committee evaluation. Based on stakeholder input, they will develop a problem statement and list of desired outcomes to serve the needs of the committees and the city. This includes reviewing past exit interviews and talking to those currently involved with advisory committees and some of those who have been involved in the past as well. JLA will also research how other cities structure engagement for complete streets and modal committees. Together, the problem statement, desired outcomes, and best practices will help shape options that modal committees will help explore for understanding their benefits and tradeoffs. Once this work is complete, PBOT leadership will determine what, if any, changes are necessary to better meet the needs of the community and committee members.

As current and former members of our modal committees, we will keep you up to date on every step of the evaluation. In the coming months, PBOT staff or our consultant may also reach out to you for participation. We'll work directly with current modal committee members throughout the evaluation and ask you to review and provide input on potential changes and their impact.

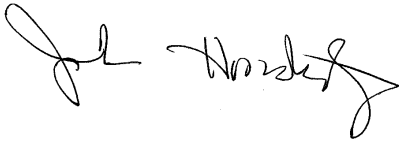
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Updates and evaluation materials will be posted to the website at <https://www.portland.gov/MCEval>.
Send questions or comments to MCEval@portlandoregon.gov.

Again, we want to thank all of you for your service and for bringing your voice to the important work of shaping Portland's transportation system for the better. We envision a bright and inclusive future for our community engagement and we know we can get there with your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Hardesty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner-in-Charge
City of Portland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Warner". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Warner, Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation