

FACTS Policy Board

November 18, 2021

12:00–2:00 pm

Workshop Agenda

Webinar link: us02web.zoom.us/j/88302450066

Phone: (301) 715-8592—Webinar ID: 883 0245 0066

Participating by phone? Use *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute.

At the direction of the GPCOG Executive Committee, FACTS and GPCOG are holding all committee meetings via [Zoom conferencing technology](#) due to the continuing pandemic. We remain committed to full public participation in our meetings through remote access during the COVID-19 crisis. Remote meetings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of [LD 32, 2021 Public Law 290](#) and [1 MRSA Chapter 13, Subchapter 1](#).

1. Welcome

This meeting is being recorded and will be made available at gpcog.org/AgendaCenter.

2. Chair's Report

3. Staff Report

4. Adoption of *Connect 2045* Vision and Goals

Discussion and a vote to adopt the vision and goals for *Connect 2045*, the region's next long-range transportation plan.

5. Other Business

6. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings

- Regional Transportation Advisory Committee—December 7, 9:00–11:00 am
- FACTS Executive Board—December 14, 9:00–10:30 am
- Regional Transportation Advisory Committee—January 4, 9:00–11:00 am
- FACTS Policy Board—January 27, 11:00 am–1:00 pm

A full list of upcoming GPCOG and FACTS meetings is available at gpcog.org/Calendar.

If you require accommodations to review materials or participate in this meeting (such as captioning or interpreting—at no cost to you), please contact:

*Vincent Edwards
(260) 804-3173
info@gpcog.org*

Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will help us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

4. Adoption of *Connect 2045* Vision and Goals

Contact	Rick Harbison and Ericka Amador, staff
Recommended action	Adopt the <i>Connect 2045</i> Vision and Goals.
Attachments	None. Staff will deliver a presentation at the meeting, itself.

Introduction

GPCOG staff are currently in the process of updating the region’s federally required long-range transportation plan. The planning process for the updated plan, *Connect 2045*, began earlier this summer. Staff expect to have a draft ready by November 2022. For more information on the plan visit the project website at connect2045.org.

With the first phase of public and stakeholder engagement now complete, staff have developed a draft vision statement and six overarching goals for the Policy Board to review and adopt. The vision and goals were developed through extensive public and stakeholder engagement, including strong support from the *Connect 2045* Project Advisory Committee.

The draft vision and goals were publicly shared with the PACTS Policy Board on October 8th and presented at the October 28th Policy Board meeting. Several Board members requested additional time to review and provide input and ultimately directed staff to convene a special session (this November 18th meeting) to finalize the vision and goals. In advance of the meeting, GPCOG staff and the Policy Board Chair shared a brief survey with Board members, requesting feedback on the draft vision and goals. Staff encouraged Board members to approach this exercise from a high-level perspective – do the vision/goals align with regional priorities and, most importantly, do they align with [what we heard from the public?](#) *The survey deadline was extended to Friday 11/12 at 5 p.m., which means that staff were unable to review and synthesize the input prior to publishing the meeting agenda. GPCOG staff will summarize the survey input, make any suggested changes, identify other discussion points, and prepare a presentation for the meeting, itself.*

Additional detail on the development of the vision and goals is provided below.

Vision

We envision a region where all people have safe transportation choices that optimize infrastructure, mitigate climate change, and support great places and resilient communities.

Goals

- **Provide Equitable Access**—The transportation system allows all people to reach the places they want to go with dignity and comfort. Regardless of their mode, purpose, or destination, trips are made affordably, conveniently, and reliably.
- **Support Great Places**—Our transportation system supports vibrant places, neighborhoods, and downtowns where people already live, work, visit, and play.
- **Improve Safety**—The transportation system is designed, constructed, and maintained to improve real and perceived safety by giving each mode space, protection, and visibility.
- **Expand Choices**—Our transportation system offers a range of options for moving between home, work, school, and other places. An integrated and connected system enables more people to walk, bike, roll, share rides, and take public transit.
- **Protect the Environment**—Our transportation system reduces its harmful impacts on the natural environment. Current and future generations enjoy healthy communities and move throughout the region without damaging habitat or contributing to climate change.
- **Optimize Infrastructure**—The transportation system makes the most of our financial resources to maintain critical infrastructure and services, while introducing new technologies and innovations to most efficiently and cleanly move people and goods.

The vision and goals are deliberately broad and “high level.” The intent is to describe the desired future or end state we wish to achieve. Once the vision and goals are agreed upon, the next step is to develop more specific strategies, objectives, policies, and projects to achieve that desired future.

Please see the following pages for additional information on the development of the vision and goals.

How were the Vision and Goals Developed?

Table 13-1, and the narrative that follows, outlines the major steps involved in developing the Connect 2045 vision and goals.

**Table 13-1
Vision and Goals Engagement Timeline**

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Step 1: Project Advisory Committee Kick-Off Meeting	7/20			
Step 2: Question Campaign				
Stakeholder meeting: Metro Regional Coalition			9/14	
Stakeholder meeting: GPCOG Executive Committee			9/21	
Stakeholder meeting: PACTS Executive Committee			9/28	
<i>Staff Review of Questions and Theme Development</i>				
Step 3: Visioning Lab (Virtual Idea Wall)				
Stakeholder meeting: RTAC				10/5
Stakeholder meeting: Portland Chamber of Commerce				10/6
Stakeholder meeting: GPCOG Joint Planner/Sustain. Roundtable				10/6
<i>Staff Review of Visioning Lab Comments</i>				
Step 4: Draft Vision & Goals Shared Publicly (with Direct Email to PACTS Committees & Boards)				10/8
Step 5: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #2				10/13
<i>Staff Refinements to Draft Vision and Goals</i>				
Step 6: Presentations of Vision and Goals to the Policy Board				10/28, 11/18
Project Advisory Comm.		Public Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	GPCOG Staff

The project team met with several GPCOG and PACTS committees and stakeholder groups this summer and fall. These meetings ranged from general presentations and updates about the project, to more in-depth discussions and workshops.

Step 1: Connect 2045 Project Advisory Committee—GPCOG staff launched the project in July by hosting the Connect 2045 Project Advisory Committee kick-off meeting. The 26-person advisory committee is comprised of a diverse group of local, state, and federal stakeholders. At the meeting, the project team outlined the Question Campaign and Visioning Lab public engagement strategy, and received unanimous support and encouragement from committee members.

Step 2: Question Campaign—In late July, the project team launched the “Question Campaign,” modeled after the highly successful public engagement campaign used for the Go Boston 2030 transportation plan. Instead of asking people to respond to a set of our questions, we invited the public to ask us their questions about getting around in the future.

In total, staff collected over 400 questions from people throughout the greater Portland region. We popped up with our question board at community block parties, farmer’s markets, and jug band concerts—from Standish and South Portland to Westbrook and Biddeford.

At the completion of the campaign, the project team compiled the questions and organized them by theme. Table 13-2 shows the top themes that emerged from the Question Campaign. A full list of questions received is available at connect2045.org on the documents page.

**Table 13-2
Major Themes from the Question Campaign**

	Count
Improving Transit	220
Active Transportation	189
Reducing Reliance on Driving	181
Safety	108
Livability	46
Equity	33
Shifting to Electric Vehicles	27
Increasing Options	16
Complete Streets	14
Better Connections to Other Regions	14

GPCOG staff then distilled these themes down to the following six major goal areas:

1. Equity
2. Livability
3. Safety
4. Mobility Choices
5. Environment
6. Stewardship

Step 3: Visioning Lab—For the next phase, the project team originally envisioned an in-person “Visioning Lab” public forum, in which each wall would be a canvas for people to contribute their ideas for each goal area. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted us to convert the in-person Visioning Lab to an online platform, available at gpcog.mysocialpinpoint.com/connect2045.

The virtual idea wall allowed people to type their comments and suggestions for each goal area on a bulletin board. It also allowed them to post pictures or links, see what others had written, like or dislike other people’s comments, or even join a discussion about a specific topic. The project team promoted the Visioning Lab at meetings, via email outreach, social media, and in-person outreach.

Step 4: Draft Vision and Goals—In early October, the project team developed a draft vision and goals using input from the Question Campaign, the Visioning Lab, stakeholder engagement, and the previous long-range plan *Destination 2040*. Staff then emailed the draft vision and goals out to all GPCOG and PACTS board and committee members and other interested parties on October 8.

Step 5: Connect 2045 Project Advisory Committee Meeting—The project team presented the draft vision and goals to the Connect 2045 Advisory Committee at a workshop-style meeting on October 13. The advisory committee unanimously supported the content of the vision and goals, but also provided constructive input on how to improve word choice, clarity, and style. The project team then refined the vision and goals based on the input received from the Connect 2045 Advisory Committee.

Step 6: Policy Board Review—following preliminary discussion at the October 28th Policy Board meeting and subsequent opportunities for written input, the project team is now presenting the vision and goals to the Policy Board for adoption, which will help establish a strong foundation for subsequent phases of the plan.

Recommended action: Adopt the Connect 2045 Vision and Goals.

Members of the public are welcome to provide up to three minutes of public comment on this item.

Attachment 1

November 18, 2021

Connect 2045 Draft Vision and Goals

Staff developed a draft vision statement and six overarching goals for the Policy Board to review and adopt at the October 28th PACTS Policy Board Meeting. The vision and goals were developed through extensive public and stakeholder engagement, including strong support from the Connect 2045 Project Advisory Committee.

Several Board members requested additional time to review and provide input and ultimately directed staff to convene a special session (November 18th meeting) to finalize the vision and goals. In advance of the meeting, GPCOG staff and the Policy Board Chair shared a brief survey with Board members, requesting feedback on the draft vision and goals. GPCOG staff have incorporated the feedback received from the survey and emails into the new version of the vision and goals below.

Vision:

All people have access to transportation choices that are safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible. The transportation system optimizes existing infrastructure, reduces harm to the environment, and supports great places and a thriving economy.

Goals:

- **Provide Equitable Access:** Our transportation system allows all people to reach the places they want to go with dignity and comfort. Regardless of form of travel, purpose, or destination, trips are made affordably, conveniently, and reliably.
- **Support Great Places:** Our transportation system is coordinated with land use decisions to support and connect vibrant and healthy places where people live, work, visit, and play.
- **Improve Safety:** Our transportation system feels safe and has eliminated all traffic fatalities and severe injuries.
- **Expand Choices:** Our transportation system offers a range of convenient options for moving people and goods. An integrated and connected system enables a shift toward more sustainable forms of travel.
- **Protect the Environment:** Our transportation system minimizes its harmful impacts on the natural environment and has significantly reduced pollution. Current and future generations enjoy healthy communities and move throughout the region without further damaging habitat or contributing to climate change.
- **Optimize Infrastructure:** Our transportation system efficiently accommodates a growing region with existing infrastructure. Investments make the most of our financial resources to maintain critical infrastructure and services, while introducing new technologies and innovations to most efficiently and cleanly move people and goods.

The previous version (presented at the October 28th Policy Board meeting) of the vision and goals are below for comparison.

Vision:

“We envision a region where all people have safe transportation choices that optimize infrastructure, mitigate climate change, and support great places and resilient communities.”

Goals:

- **Provide Equitable Access:** The transportation system allows all people to reach the places they want to go with dignity and comfort. Regardless of their mode, purpose or destination, trips are made affordably, conveniently, and reliably.
- **Support Great Places:** Our transportation system supports vibrant places, neighborhoods, and downtowns where people already live, work, visit, and play.
- **Improve Safety:** The transportation system is designed, constructed, and maintained to improve real and perceived safety by giving each mode space, protection, and visibility.
- **Expand Choices:** Our transportation system offers a range of options for moving between home, work, school, and other places. An integrated and connected system enables more people to walk, bike, roll, share rides, and take public transit.
- **Protect the Environment:** Our transportation system reduces its harmful impacts on the natural environment. Current and future generations enjoy healthy communities and move throughout the region without damaging habitat or contributing to climate change.
- **Optimize Infrastructure:** The transportation system makes the most of our financial resources to maintain critical infrastructure and services, while introducing new technologies and innovations to most efficiently and cleanly move people and goods.