



To: Carlos Pena, FHWA; Kristin Wood, FTA
CC: Tom Reinauer, MaineDOT
From: Chris Chop, PACTS/GPCOG
Date: 3-3-21
Re: PACTS MTP – Proposed Reaffirmation

Mr. Pena and Ms. Wood:

Although the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS) metropolitan transportation plan, [Destination 2040](#), is set to expire on April 26, 2021, PACTS staff believe that reaffirming the plan (pending public comment period and subsequent policy board approval) will extend the life of the MTP, whose analysis and recommendations remain valid, and, more importantly, will provide the region with better data, information, and resources to help create a plan that is current and impactful.

Reaffirming the existing plan will allow PACTS to explore and analyze new and upcoming data, such as Decennial Census Data. It will also provide us with additional perspective on the pandemic's impact on transportation (e.g. the impacts on public transportation and VMT), particularly as more Americans become vaccinated and as life hopefully returns to "normal".

The proposed reaffirmation will allow PACTS to better incorporate Federal guidance, including input received during PACTS' Summer/Fall 2020 recertification, as well as emerging/changing Federal guidance and priorities, including the potential for a new Federal Authorization Bill. Secretary Buttigieg has also identified some priorities, such as transportation equity, which closely align with the work we are doing at PACTS and the programs and language we envision for the next MTP.

Furthermore, reaffirmation of PACTS' existing plan will enable PACTS to incorporate recent guidance and input from the MaineDOT and other state agencies. In addition to MaineDOT's planning efforts on the state freight plan (underway) and the long-range plan (upcoming), PACTS can also refer to the Maine Climate Council's four-year plan for climate action ([Maine Won't Wait](#)), which was approved in December 2020.

As next steps, PACTS will seek public comments on the proposed reaffirmation before requesting formal PACTS Policy Board approval. PACTS anticipates completing its MTP update by December 2022, providing sufficient time to develop a robust plan that provides our region with a meaningful roadmap for the future. Thank you for your valuable partnership and your commitment to improving transportation in our region and across the country.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Chop'.

Christopher W. Chop
Transportation Director, PACTS