

Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan Recommendations

Introduction

The Basalt Creek transportation planning effort analyzed future transportation conditions and evaluated alternative strategies for phased investments that support regional and local needs.¹ This document reflects the Policy Advisory Group’s unanimous approval of the transportation investments, next steps for policy and plan updates, and potential funding strategies described in this document.

Purpose

The purpose of this refinement plan was to determine the major transportation system connecting Tualatin-Sherwood Road to I-5 in North Wilsonville through the Basalt Creek Planning Area, which is currently an unincorporated urban area of Washington County between the cities of Tualatin to the north, and Wilsonville to the south (see Figure 1). This plan refines recommendations from the I-5/99W Connector Study and the Regional Transportation Plan, setting the stage for land use concept planning and comprehensive plan development for the Basalt Creek area.

Planning Context

The need to plan for the future transportation system in the Basalt Creek area is driven not only by future growth in the Basalt Creek Planning area itself, but by future growth in surrounding areas targeted for industrial development. Basalt Creek currently lacks the multi-modal transportation facilities needed to support economic and urban-level development. Several planning

The Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan was a joint effort involving:

- Washington County
- City of Tualatin
- City of Wilsonville
- Metro
- The Oregon Department of Transportation
- Area Citizens

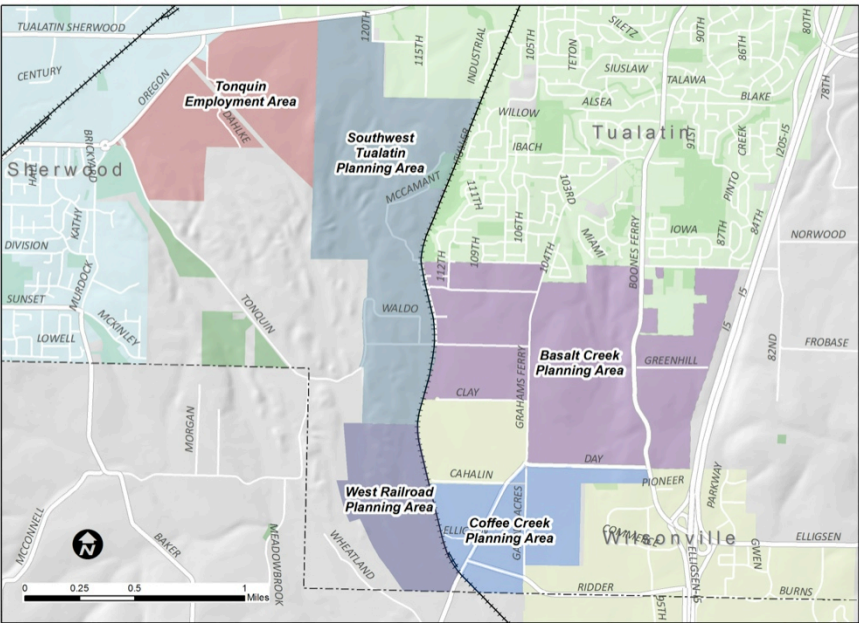


Figure 1: Basalt Creek Planning Area Location

¹ See *Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan Technical Report* for more information.

efforts, summarized below, provide background and context for the Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan.

- The **I-5/99W Connector Study** recommended an alternative that spreads east-west traffic across three smaller arterials rather than a single expressway. Although specific alignments for these arterials were not defined, the eastern end of the Southern Arterial was generally located within the Basalt Creek Planning Area, south of Tonquin Road. The present planning effort aims to further define the location of the connection between the SW 124th Avenue Extension and the I-5/Elligsen interchange in a manner that does not preclude the future Southern Arterial west of SW 124th.
- The **2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** calls for detailed project planning and near-term construction of an extension of SW 124th Avenue from Tualatin-Sherwood Road to the I-5/Elligsen Road interchange, supporting industrial access from the Tonquin, Southwest Tualatin, and Basalt Creek Planning Areas. The RTP also calls for the near-term construction of the Tonquin Trail (see below).
- The **Tonquin Employment Area, Southwest Tualatin Concept Planning Area, and Coffee Creek Planning Area** together comprise about 1,000 acres surrounding the Basalt Creek area that are planned primarily for industrial use. These areas are expected to generate growing freight and work-related travel demands on the multi-modal transportation network that runs through the Basalt Creek area.
- The **SW 124th Avenue Extension** Project, currently underway, is planning and designing the corridor described in the RTP from Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Tonquin Road. The present planning effort aims to extend the corridor to I-5 as envisioned in the RTP and ensure consistency with current SW 124th Avenue project.
- Washington County's **Boones Ferry Road** improvement project, also currently underway, provides pedestrian and bicycle improvements and an intermittent center turn lane between Norwood Road and Day Road. It is an assumed improvement for the Basalt Creek area.
- Near-term construction of the **Tonquin Trail** is called for in the RTP. The master plan identifies an alignment for new bicycle and pedestrian connections between Sherwood, Tualatin, and Wilsonville, with connections to the larger regional trail system. The Tonquin Trail will travel through the Southwest Tualatin Concept Plan Area and the Tonquin Employment Concept Plan Area, and is an assumed improvement within the Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan.
- **Transportation System Plan** updates for Washington County, Tualatin, and Wilsonville are currently underway. Washington County will incorporate recommendations from this refinement plan into the County TSP update. The cities of Tualatin and Wilsonville will not incorporate these recommendations into their current TSP updates, but will carry the recommendations into land use concept planning and future TSP updates.

Facility Considerations and Characteristics

At the outset of this effort, agencies articulated a set of considerations to guide selection of the preferred transportation system as well as preferred characteristics of the primary east-west facility through the area.

- **Guiding considerations** included: ability to fund and phase improvements, level of impacts (environmental, right-of-way, etc.), support for development, consistency with regional policy, and traffic operations performance.
- **Facility characteristics** included: for the primary arterial connection, a 45 mph prevailing speed and access spacing of one-half mile to one mile to improve capacity.

Recommendation

The Policy Advisory Group (PAG), which consists of elected officials and key staff from the project's five partner agencies, recommends the following elements as part of an overall Action Plan (illustrated in Figure 2) for the area.

Roadways

The final recommendation is for a combination of new and improved roadways through the Basalt Creek area. The key new roadway through the area is a five-lane east-west extension of SW 124th Avenue, aligned south of Tonquin Road and extending east to Boones Ferry Road. The recommendation also includes improvements to existing roadways in the area, such as Tonquin Road, Grahams Ferry Road, Boones Ferry Road, and Day Road.

Protection of right-of-way for the new east-west roadway from the 124th Avenue extension to Boones Ferry Road is a key element of this recommendation. Right-of-way protection and purchase will be addressed separately, concurrent with the Basalt Creek land use concept planning.

During the planning process, the City of Wilsonville expressed concern about the structural condition of Day Road (i.e., failing roadway base and resulting pavement deterioration) and its ability to carry freight traffic for further development of industrial lands. While the Basalt Creek Transportation Refinement Plan focused on roadway needs related to capacity, the PAG agreed that the function of the arterial network in the Basalt Creek area includes providing roadways with adequate structural design for regional freight needs. Therefore, the PAG agreed that the project recommendations include a commitment to address the construction, operations, and maintenance of the arterial network through the concept planning process.

Overcrossings

The ability to construct two new I-5 overcrossings, including an off-street multi-use path, should be preserved in order to provide for future circulation and connectivity across the Basalt Creek area and into areas east of I-5. These overcrossings are recommended as long-term improvements and are likely not needed until 2035 or later. Forecasts show that the second overcrossing is not needed unless surrounding urban reserve areas east of I-5 and south of I-205 are developed. This refinement plan is neutral on the timing of urban reserves development, and therefore does not specify the timing and order of overcrossing improvements.

Active Transportation

All improved roadways in the Action Plan include bike lanes and sidewalks consistent with Washington County urban standards. This recommendation also includes integration of the regional Tonquin Trail into the transportation network. Metro, in close coordination with the cities of Tualatin, Wilsonville, Sherwood, and Washington and Clackamas counties, led the master planning effort that identified a preferred alignment that travels through the Basalt Creek Planning Area. Roadway cross-sections and right-of-way purchases for the future east-west facility will consider needs for the Tonquin Trail in the design for the railroad overcrossing and improvements to Tonquin Road between Morgan Road and Tonquin Loop Road. Design for the east-west facility should also consider providing an off-street multi-use path that connects to the Tonquin Trail and extends east of I-5. Details of how this multi-use path will be integrated with the east-west facility design will be refined during later land use concept planning.

Action Plan

The recommended Action Plan consists of 18 transportation investments, shown in Figure 2. Timing of projects was prioritized through an analysis of likely transportation needs in 2020, 2030, and 2035 based on growth assumptions from the adopted Regional Transportation Plan. Because of uncertainty regarding the years during which development in the Basalt Creek Planning Area and surrounding areas will occur, phasing for investments is classified as short-term, medium-term, and long-term. Descriptions of these investments, as well as timing and the funding needed, are shown in Table 1. Cost estimates include right-of-way.

Table 1: Basalt Creek Action Plan

ID	Project	Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term	Cost (\$2012)
1	124 th Avenue Extension (Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Tonquin Road): Construct three lane road extension with bike lanes and sidewalks	x			\$20,000,000
2	Tonquin Road (124 th Avenue to Grahams Ferry Road): Widen to three lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks, grade separate at railroad, improve geometry at Grahams Ferry Road ¹	x			\$10,500,000
3	Grahams Ferry Road (Tonquin Road to Day Road): Widen to three lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks	x			\$5,400,000
4	Boones Ferry Road (Norwood Road to Day Road): Widen to three lanes with bicycle and pedestrian improvements	x			\$10,800,000
5	124 th Avenue/Tonquin Road Intersection: Signal (may include Tonquin Trail crossing)	x			~ ²
6	Grahams Ferry Road/Tonquin Road Intersection: Signal	x			\$500,000
7	Boones Ferry Road/Day Road Intersection: Add second southbound through approach lane	x			~ ³
8	Boones Ferry Road/95 th Avenue Intersection: Construct dual left-turn and right-turn lanes; improve signal synchronization, access management and sight distance	x			\$2,500,000
9a	Tonquin Trail (Clackamas County Line to Tonquin Loop Road): Construct multi-use trail with some segments close to but separated from road	x			\$8,900,000 ⁴
9b	Tonquin Trail (Tonquin Loop Road to Tualatin-Sherwood Road): Construct multi-use trail with some segments close to but separated from road		x		\$7,100,000 ⁴
10	124 th Avenue Extension (Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Tonquin Road): Widen from three to five lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks		x		\$14,000,000
11	East-West Arterial (124 th Avenue to Boones Ferry Road): Construct 5 lane roadway with railroad and creek crossings, integrate segment of Tonquin Trail ⁵		x		\$57,900,000
12	Boones Ferry Road (East-West Arterial to Day Road): Widen to five lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks		x		\$1,100,000
13	Kinsman Road Extension (Ridder Road to Day Street): Construct three lane road extension with bike lanes and sidewalks		x		\$10,400,000
14	Day Road (Kinsman Road to Boones Ferry Road): Widen to five lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks		x		\$5,800,000
15	I-5 Southbound off-ramp at Boones Ferry Road/Elligsen Road: construct second right turn lane		x		\$500,000
16	Boones Ferry Road/95 th Avenue Intersection: Access management		x		~ ⁶
17	Day Road Overcrossing: Extend new four lane crossing over I-5 from Boones Ferry Road to Elligsen Road			x	\$33,700,000- \$44,100,000 ⁷
18	East-West Arterial Overcrossing: Extend new four lane crossing over I-5 from Boones Ferry Road to Stafford Road. Integrate multi-use path in corridor that connects to Tonquin Trail			x	\$38,000,000
TOTAL		\$59M	\$97M	\$72-82M	\$228-238M

¹ Grade separation for Tonquin Road is optional. An at-grade crossing would reduce cost by around \$2,000,000

² Cost included in Project 1

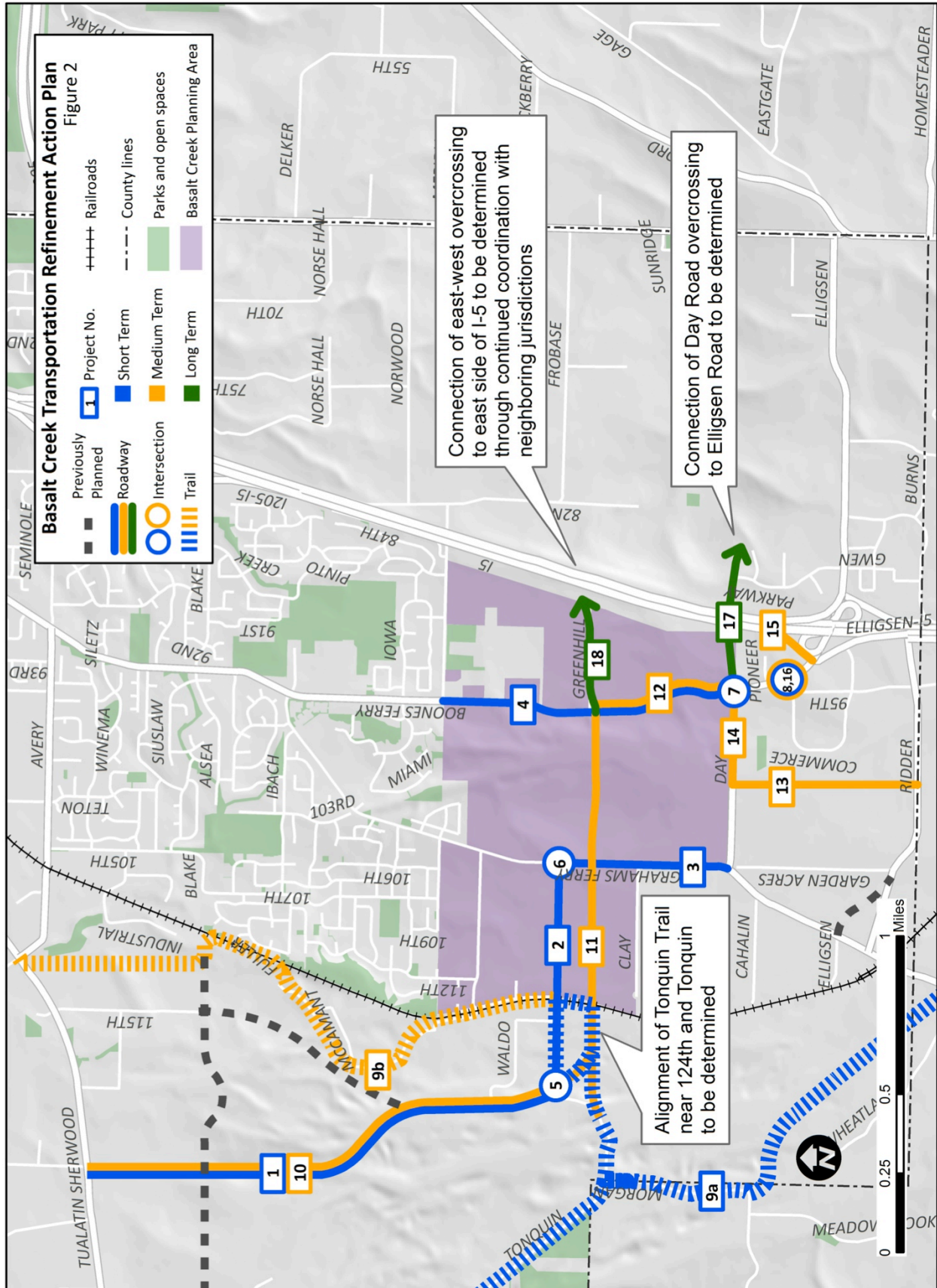
³ Coordinate with Project 4. Cost of approach lane included in estimate for Project 12

⁴ Tonquin Trail cost estimated by Metro as part of trail planning effort

⁵ Project 11 can potentially be built in two phases funded separately, west and east of Grahams Ferry Road. However, traffic benefits needed in the medium term (around 2030) will not be realized unless entire project is completed

⁶ Project details to be determined by further coordination between City of Wilsonville and ODOT. Cost expected to be minimal

⁷ Specific alignment approaching Elligsen Road will determine project cost. Alignment to Parkway Center Drive is estimated at \$33,700,000, and alignment to Canyon Creek Road is estimated at \$44,100,000



Each investment adds important improvements to the major transportation system in the Basalt Creek area to support future development, adding new multimodal facilities and upgrading existing facilities to urban standards. Although not shown on the map, it is expected that future concept planning will identify locations for additional, lower-classification roads and other transportation facilities to serve future development as well.

Are these new projects?

While cost estimates for the entire recommendation may total as high as \$238,000,000, all of the 18 projects have some relation to investments already planned in the adopted RTP. Table 2 shows projects from the RTP that have overlap or similarity to projects contained in the Action Plan. **Note that many of these projects are different in scope from those contained in the Action Plan, and will have different cost estimates. Future RTP updates may include updated cost estimates from this study.**

Table 2: Related projects from the Regional Transportation Plan

RTP ID	RTP Project	Related Action Plan Projects	Time Period	Cost (\$2007)
10736	124 th Avenue: Construct new street from Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Tonquin Road: 5 lanes	1,5,10,11	2008-2017	\$82,500,000
10590	Tonquin Road: Realign and widen to three lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks (Oregon Street to Grahams Ferry Road)	2,6	2018-2025	\$28,406,000
10588	Grahams Ferry Road: Widen to three lanes, add bike/pedestrian connections to regional trail system and fix undersized railroad crossing (Helenius Street to Clackamas County line)	3	2008-2017	\$28,000,000
10732	Boones Ferry Road: Widen to five lanes (Norwood Road to Day Road)	4,7,12	2018-2025	\$40,050,000
10852	95 th /Boones Ferry/Commerce Circle Intersection Improvements	8,16	2008-2017	\$2,500,000
10854	Tonquin Trail: Construct multi-use trail with some on-street segments (Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Clackamas County line)	9a,9b	2008-2017	\$3,000,000
10853	Kinsman Road extension with bike lanes and sidewalks (Ridder Road to Day Road)	13	2008-2017	\$6,500,000
11243	Day Road reconstruction to accommodate trucks (Grahams Ferry Road to Boones Ferry Road)	14	2008-2017	\$3,200,000
11342	I-5/99W Connector Southern Arterial/I-5 Interface ¹	15,17,18	2026-2035	\$50,000,000

¹ Construction of projects specifically related to the I-5/99W Connector Southern Arterial, such as the I-5 interface, are contingent on certain project conditions being met. See Regional Transportation Plan for details.

Policy and Plan Updates

Recommendations in this plan allow new concept planning efforts to move forward and provide guidance for updates of existing transportation plans.

Basalt Creek and West Railroad Area Concept Planning

The transportation system recommended in this plan becomes the framework for more detailed land use concept planning of the Basalt Creek Planning Area and West Railroad Planning Area by the cities of Tualatin and Wilsonville. Key recommendations to be carried forward during concept planning include:

- Protection of the major transportation facility corridors from development encroachment.
- Coordination of the local transportation system with the transportation investments included in this plan (unless amended by the parties of this study). Each roadway in the Basalt Creek area has access spacing standards that protect the safety and operations of the system, and these standards help determine appropriate local street connections. The new east-west facility is limited to accesses at 124th Avenue, Grahams Ferry Road, and Boones Ferry Road.
- Detailed concept planning in the Basalt Creek area should consider multi-use path connections to the Tonquin Trail that emphasize directness and minimize conflicts, enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access to new residential and employment areas. In the West Railroad area, concept planning will also include sections of the Tonquin Trail.

Regional Transportation Plan

In many cases, this transportation refinement plan provides new detail and cost estimates for projects that are already in the adopted RTP. These refined project descriptions, cost estimates, and timing considerations should be considered when projects are forwarded to Metro for the next RTP update. Examples of RTP projects that overlap with projects in this refinement plan include:

- 10590 (Tonquin Road). Action Plan project #2 includes a grade-separated railroad crossing, which is not included in the RTP project description.
- 10852 (95th/Boones Ferry/Commerce). Action Plan projects 8 and 16 will require further coordination with ODOT to determine geometry and timing of intersection improvements.
- 11243 (Day Road). Action Plan project #14, which widens part of Day Road, should also upgrade the roadway structure and pavement conditions to accommodate increasing heavy truck volumes. Although project #14 applies only to the section of Day Road between Kinsman Road and Boones Ferry Road, funding of roadway reconstruction between Kinsman Road and Grahams Ferry Road should also be discussed as part of land use concept planning.
- 10854 (Tonquin Trail). Action Plan projects #2, #5, #11 all need to consider Tonquin Trail in their design, including most recent alignment information and cost estimates from the trail master plan.

Washington County TSP Update

Most of the projects included in the Action Plan are new facilities in unincorporated Washington County or improved facilities already under County jurisdiction. An amendment to update the Washington County TSP will be done in 2013 to incorporate the descriptions, cost estimates, and timing of these projects.

Tualatin and Wilsonville TSP Updates

The Cities of Tualatin and Wilsonville are also currently updating their transportation system plans. However, because concept planning for Basalt Creek will include agreement on the future city limit boundary between the two cities, as well as more detailed transportation network considerations, the projects included in this plan will not be incorporated as part of the current TSP updates. Future TSP updates may reflect elements from this refinement plan by amending project lists, maps, and funding strategies.

Funding

Funding for some short-term Action Plan projects has already been programmed by Washington County through their Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP). This includes \$16.9 million (\$10.9 million in MSTIP funding and \$6 million from other sources) for an interim two-lane extension of SW 124th Avenue from Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Tonquin Road. It also includes an additional \$10 million for right-of-way purchase or other improvements from the list identified by this Plan. Washington County has also provided \$11 million in funding for the current Boones Ferry Road improvement project.

While this recommendation does not identify a specific overall funding strategy for the Action Plan, there are many existing revenue sources that may be used to fund the recommended investments.

Many are subject to a state or regionally competitive process where success can hinge on having a broadly supported plan in place.

The revenue sources listed below form the basis of the financially constrained Regional Transportation Plan and related project list, which already contains many of the recommended Basalt Creek investments. The RTP assumes federal, state, and local sources, all of which will be key to funding the Action Plan.

Federal

Based on MAP-21² legislation, sources may include:

- **National Highway Performance Program (NHPP).** These funds are intended for rehabilitation and expansion of principal arterials, especially those with important freight functions.
- **Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.** These funds may be used for virtually any transportation purpose short of building local residential streets.
- **Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.** These funds typically support biking, walking, and transit projects, and other projects that help to achieve air quality standards.
- **Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds.** TA takes the place of previous programs such as Transportation Enhancements and Recreational Trails, and may be used to fund a variety of non-motorized projects.

² For more information see <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>

These funds are allocated to projects through a state or regionally managed competitive process for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

State

State sources include the statewide gas tax, vehicle registration fees, and weight-mile taxes on trucks. These funds typically go to road and bridge maintenance projects, but funding for projects of regional significance, such as those provided by Oregon House Bill 2001 Jobs and Transportation Act (JTA), may be made available for modernization. Again, having a plan in place allows projects to access funds when new funding opportunities become available.

Local

A variety of local funding sources are available, although some, such as urban renewal and local improvement districts, are subject to approval. Sources may include:

- Washington County Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP)
- Local portion of State Highway Trust Fund
- Local gas tax
- Transportation System Development Charges (SDCs) or Transportation Development Taxes (TDTs) levied on new development
- Urban renewal funding
- Developer contributions
- Local improvement districts (LIDs)