

Columbia Connects Bi-State Study

RTC

Project Completed: December 2021

Project Information

RTC funding: \$50,000 in STBG Funds

Total Project Cost: \$308,500

Project Type: Metropolitan (Bi-State) Planning

Study Area: (see attached)

Project Description

The Columbia Connects Bi-State Study was convened among the region's two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (RTC and Metro), and a group of local and regional agencies, to study actions which leverage infrastructure and economic development investments within the defined study area. The Columbia Connects Shared Investment Strategy (*Strategy*) documented: regulatory policies and plans, economic and infrastructure conditions, and made a series of recommendations and actions to advance economic development, which are to be carried out over the next 5-years. The study partner group has committed to advance the study recommendation in support of the region's [Greater Portland Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#).

Study Report



Project Benefits

MPO and regional partner collaboration towards infrastructure and economic development initiatives is needed to optimize public investments and resources. The *Strategy's* actions, if pursued, could increase regional economic development outcomes including: fostering upward economic mobility; building capacity to confront climate change; and, prioritizing infrastructure and sites to support targeted jobs. Among other key actions, partners plan to support implementation of priority infrastructure projects identified within each MPO's Regional Transportation Plans, and will partner will project sponsors to pursue project funding/grant opportunities. The outcome of the *Strategy* is to routinely convene bi-state partners to more fully align infrastructure planning/investments and job development, as a coordinated regional policy and investment objective.

Project Funding

Phase	Year	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total
Planning - RTC	FY 21-22	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Planning - Metro	FY 21-22	\$182,000	\$26,500	\$208,500
Total		\$232,000	\$76,500	\$308,500

Columbia Connects – Study Area

