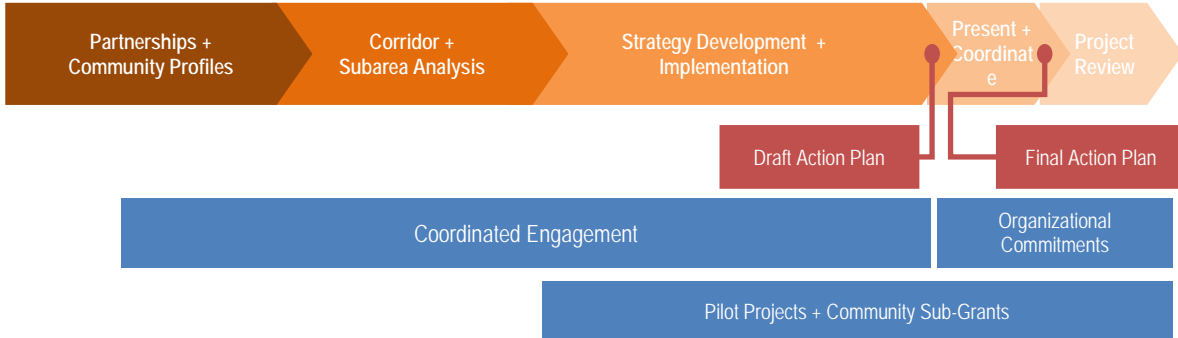


# Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy

February 7, 2019 update

SPRING 2017	SUMMER 2017	FALL 2017	WINTER 2017-18	SPRING 2018	SUMMER 2018	FALL 2018	WINTER 2018-19	SPRING 2019	SUMMER 2019
----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------------	----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------------	----------------	----------------

Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy (SWEDS)



## Project Background

The Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy strives to ensure that individuals and families continue to live, work and thrive in the Southwest Corridor as we invest in a [proposed 12-mile MAX light rail](#) line from downtown Portland to Tigard and Tualatin, along with walking, biking and roadway projects to help people access stations. This means making sure SW Corridor neighborhoods have:

- different choices for where to live for people of all incomes
- a range of jobs for people of all backgrounds
- learning opportunities that prepare people for those jobs
- wages that support people’s desire to live and work in the corridor.

## Equitable Development Goals

The following equitable development goals have been established to target key issues project partners are interested in measuring as part of a corridor conditions report, clarify components of social equity the project focuses on as we proceed with coordinated engagement efforts, guides what targets are established for the final Strategy and Action Plan, and provides a rationale for establishing jurisdiction and organizational endorsements and commitments.

- Address residential and business displacement
- Reduce disparities and improve conditions for affected people
- Preserve and expand affordable housing
- Advance economic opportunity for all and build community capacity for wealth creation
- Promote transportation mobility and connectivity
- Develop healthy and safe communities
- Expand the breadth and depth of influence among affected people

## Equitable Development Pilot Projects

Equitable Development Pilot Projects are intended to inform this Strategy while supporting community-driven initiatives that prepare communities for the changes and opportunities light rail and other investments would bring to the SW Corridor. The six funded projects officially started their work on July 1, 2018 and have 12 months to complete their stated tasks:

- Mercy Corps NW- establishing services and targeted assistance to help stabilize and prepare underserved entrepreneurs to minimize the pressures they will face during light rail construction.
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization- identifying lower-wage, lower-skilled diverse individuals (people of color and other historically marginalized populations) from the SW Corridor who work in entry-level roles at Oregon Health Science University, and training them for middle-skill health care roles.
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing- adjusting a site design process for existing and future properties and elevating lessons from engagement with community organizations that will inform future housing development design beyond unit size, to include culturally relevant employment and health services that should be within close proximity or co-located with affordable housing developments.
- Home Forward- addressing potential displacement by supporting 43 ethnic groups (around 3,000 people) associated with Muslim Education Trust by assisting the community in navigating the maze of government programs and agencies providing housing support services.
- Proud Ground- addressing permanently affordable homeownership opportunities through: targeted outreach with existing non-profit partners, working with Habitat for Humanity and other development partners to secure permanent affordability among the pipeline of units available to households between 35-80% AMI, and developing a business plan that focuses on the creation of a land bank model for SW Corridor.
- Momentum Alliance- strengthening capacity among historically marginalized communities (communities of color, immigrants and refugees, and low-income renters) in the SW corridor through leadership development and engagement.

## Strategy Development

The Project Oversight Committee has settled on a list of 17 actions drawn from priorities documented for inclusion among engaged community-based organizations and SWEDS advisory groups dedicated to equity and housing and business and workforce stabilization. Several actions have identified champions, who are currently formulating a business plan for future implementation of that particular action. This process is allowing each of the project partners on the Oversight Committee to gain ownership of a particular piece of the overall strategy.

## Long-Term Implementation

Federal Grant dollars are a finite resource relative to the SW Corridor. As such, project staff have begun a conversation with the Project Oversight Committee about the long-term implementation of the Strategy once federal resources are no longer available. Governmental partners, including Metro, TriMet, City of Portland, and City of Tigard, have dedicated budgetary resources in the next fiscal year to continue staffing a collaborative table, with a focus on implementation. Additional use of the funds will include the hiring of an Equity Coordinator, who will serve as staff to the collaborative in the development of future funding and implementation of identified actions. The Project Oversight Committee will spend the next quarter determining the nature of an initial philanthropic ask to focus on implementation of the previously identified actions outlined in the Equitable Development Strategy.