



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director
DATE: July 30, 2013
SUBJECT: 2014/15 MTP Update and MTP Assessment/Amendment Process

AT A GLANCE – DISCUSSION

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Board a 2014/15 MTP Update process. In addition, and because the Board ran out of time at their July meeting, the MTP Assessment/Amendment agenda item is being brought back to the August meeting.

BACKGROUND

RTC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Clark County and the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties. One of the federal planning requirements needed for the region to be eligible for the receipt of federal transportation funds is the adoption of a federally approved Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Federal regulations require that the MTP be updated every four years. RTC’s next update must be completed by the end of 2015, but because of a number of emerging circumstances, the update is being proposed to start in 2014, with a mid-2015 completion date.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Clark County is the region’s chief transportation planning document. The MTP establishes a comprehensive policy direction for the regional transportation system and recommends a balanced program of modal investments to implement that policy direction. The current [MTP](#) was adopted by the RTC Board, on December 6, 2011, Resolution 12-11-23. It represents a coordinated planning process between local and state jurisdictions to develop regional solutions to transportation needs.

PROPOSED 2014/15 MTP UDATE

The proposed Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update would be initiated in 2014 and be completed by mid-2015. Listed below are a set of key reasons/issues for starting the MTP Update in 2014. The list below is a starting point; the Board may have additional issues.

- Reflect regional travel demand for a slower growth 2035 forecast, changing demographics and income levels, the change in Clark County’s economy from one driven by the residential home construction industry, more limited transportation revenues, and emerging transportation policy trends.
- Maintain consistency with the Growth Management Plan update to reflect changing regional transportation system needs.
- Include strategic input from freight/business leaders and community leaders.
- Systematic reevaluation of regional transportation alternatives.

A much more comprehensive scoping of the MTP process is needed to detail the MTP Update time line, however, in order to set a starting point a general time line is listed below.

- Fall 2013 – conclude the 2035 MTP Capital Facilities Review
- Winter 2014 – scoping of the MTP Update, vision/goals/desired outcomes, review growth projections, and confirm decision-making elements and process
- Spring/Summer 2014 – conduct a system-wide alternatives and needs analysis, identify projects, and develop revenue assumptions and finance plan
- Fall 2014/Spring 2015 – evaluation, draft recommendations, comprehensive public review process, decision making, plan adoption

Input is being requested from the Board in regard to their interest in starting the MTP process in 2014 and in regard to the general outline provided above.

The June 25, 2013 RTC Board memorandum titled MTP Assessment/Amendment Process, Review Draft that was carried over from the July 2, 2013 meeting is attached and will be presented along with the proposed 2014 MTP Update process at the August 6 meeting. The purpose of the memorandum was to present to the Board a draft concept for an annual assessment process that would provide the Board a regular opportunity to consider amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

In addition, a two-sided information fact sheet is attached that provides an overview of RTC's federal planning requirements and RTC's federal transportation project funding sources.

Attachment: June 25, 2013 RTC Board memorandum titled, MTP Assessment/Amendment Process, Review Draft
RTC Federal Planning Requirements and RTC Federal Transportation Project Funding