



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** September 30, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** **2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update**

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***AT A GLANCE - Discussion***

*The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is being updated in 2014 to comply with federal requirements and to ensure continued consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans. This agenda item updates the RTC Board on the RTP process and timeline for RTP update adoption. The focus of the RTP October Board presentation will be on the financial forecast, covered in a separate Memo, as well as the updated regional travel forecast and resulting transportation system performance data.*

**BACKGROUND**

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is the region's long-range transportation plan to guide development of transportation systems and services over the next twenty years. Projects must be identified in the Regional Transportation Plan before they can be programmed for federal funding in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**RTP SCHEDULE AND TASKS: UPDATE**

In June 2014, the Board reviewed the process diagram (attached) showing steps to be taken leading up to adoption of the RTP update scheduled for December 2014. The graphic also shows subsequent process steps in Plan implementation through development of project funding criteria, project prioritization and system performance monitoring through defined programs.

The RTP update process has been an ongoing work effort throughout 2014. To date, some key elements have been completed and milestones reached. The RTC Board discussed the RTP's vision and goals as well as RTP policies as the foundation for the RTP update. At the January through March Board meetings, these discussions focused on policy issues central to providing transportation system and services. These core transportation policy issues are Safety and Security as well as transportation Access and Mobility ensuring that system congestion and bottlenecks are addressed. The Board directed that two challenging transportation policy issues, Finance and the Economy, should be the focus of attention in this year's RTP update.

At the June RTC Board meeting, forecast population and employment growth was reviewed as well as significant demographic trends and data that influence regional travel patterns and behavior. A preliminary draft list of capital projects to be considered for identification in the updated RTP contingent on results of the transportation performance analysis and the RTP's financial plan capacity was presented to the RTC Board at the September meeting. These

projects were compiled from lists of projects in local Capital Facilities Plans, from state plans and C-TRAN's plans. RTC takes project cost estimates from these local and state plans to use in the RTP's financial plan chapter.

## **RTP PROJECT LIST**

Consultation with local partners to compile the RTP project list is nearly complete. A final review of the project list was solicited at the September RTAC meeting and closed at the end of September.

To be eligible for inclusion in the RTP, a project should be drawn from the local jurisdictions' Capital Facilities Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs, and from WSDOT and C-TRAN plans. Projects must be identified in the Regional Transportation Plan before they can be programmed for federal funding in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. Below is a listing of criteria used to determine projects to identify and list in the RTP.

### **Criteria for Listing Projects in RTP:**

- Purpose and need for identified transportation project (e.g. safety, capacity, urban upgrade, system management, demand management, preservation)
- Projects identified by state or local jurisdictions and transportation agencies in state plans, transit plans, local Capital Facilities Plans, local Transportation Improvement Programs and/or local Traffic Impact Fee project lists
- Fiscally-constrained projects
- Projects that could be constructed/implemented within the 20-year RTP timeframe (*funding contingent*)

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING ELEMENT**

As one of the key policy issues, finance was discussed at last month's RTC Board meeting when RTC staff introduced financial assumptions to be made in forecasting revenues available over the 20-year timeline of the RTP. At the October meeting, RTC staff will review the RTP's financial plan element. Details are provided in a separate Memo.

## **TRAVEL FORECAST AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE**

RTC staff has completed the first round of 2035 regional travel forecasting to support the RTP update and will report on preliminary results at the October RTC Board meeting. The initial round of travel forecasting was developed using RTC's Regional Travel Forecasting Model. The model uses land use inputs to estimate travel demand and then combines travel demand with highway and transit networks to estimate utilization of the transportation system, travel patterns and analysis of system performance.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

The public is encouraged to participate in this year's RTP update process. RTP information and RTC Board materials on the RTP update are available on RTC's website. The public is able to

provide RTP comments via the RTC website, e-mail, phone or mail. RTC staff sends notices of the RTP's development and public outreach opportunities to Clark County and Vancouver neighborhood coordinators and keeps small cities informed through their Regional Transportation Advisory Committee representatives. In 2014, RTC hosted a round table discussion on regional transportation issues in collaboration with the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) as part of the Washington Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan update processes and made RTP update materials available at a September 8 Open House at the Downtown Vancouver Public Library also jointly hosted by the WSTC and RTC.

### **NEXT STEPS**

RTC staff will continue to work with staff of local jurisdictions and partner agencies as chapters of the updated Plan are drafted. RTC staff will report back to the RTC Board at the November meeting when it is anticipated that draft sections of the Plan will be reviewed.

**Attachment:** Graphic: RTP Development Process and Subsequent Implementation

# THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: RTP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION

