



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** October 25, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** **SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study – Consultant Contract, Resolution 11-16-25**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*This resolution describes the consultant selection process, summarizes the tasks for the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study, and asks the RTC Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a consulting services agreement for assistance in conducting the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study.*

### INTRODUCTION

An SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study is being initiated as a result of local agencies desire to understand traffic flow and identify current and future transportation needs, given current planned transportation improvements. WSDOT has requested that RTC manage the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study on their behalf. The Circulation Study is intended to identify current and future travel trends along SR-14 in the Bingen/White Salmon area and identify transportation needs. The study will also consider the transportation impacts of adding a new grade-separated crossing into the Port of Klickitat Bingen Point property.

Resolution 08-16-20 was approved by the RTC Board in August authorizing RTC to enter into an agreement with WSDOT to manage the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study. Resolution 08-16-20 also authorized RTC to begin the consultant selection process.

Since the August RTC Board meeting, RTC staff entered into an agreement with WSDOT to manage the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study and has carried out the consultant selection process in accordance with RTC procurement policy. RTC staff and partner agencies have reviewed qualifications and found the proposed contractor to be qualified to conduct a circulation study. RTC is currently negotiating a final scope of work with the proposed consultant firm.

This resolution requests that the RTC Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a consultant services agreement with the selected consultant firm for assistance in conducting the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study.

### CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS

A Request for Qualifications to assist RTC in conducting the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study was issued on September 20, 2016, and was advertised on RTC's website and in the Portland and Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce. Although several firms expressed

interest, only one submittal was received by the October 11, 2016 deadline from the WPS/Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) firm. Initial screening of qualification submittals were carried out by a consultant selection panel with representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Klickitat County, City of Bingen, and RTC. Each member of the consultant selection panel individually evaluated the proposal based on the selection criteria. The consultant selection panel felt that the WPS/Parsons Brinckerhoff firm was qualified and that RTC should begin the process to negotiate a final scope and budget with WPS/Parsons Brinckerhoff.

The WPS/Parson Brinckerhoff team is headed by Tony Lo as Project Manager who has had a leadership role in similar types of corridor studies.

### **AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

RTC will be the project lead for the overall study and the management of work tasks. A professional consultant team will be used to support RTC in implementing the scope of work. An Advisory Committee will be formed to assist with project decisions. The Advisory Committee will include representatives from WSDOT, Klickitat County, Cities of Bingen and White Salmon, Port of Klickitat, and local businesses.

In addition, regular updates will be provided to the Klickitat County Transportation Policy Committee, and the RTC Board will be provided with an update at the conclusion of the study.

### **SUMMARIZED DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK**

The primary study area is in the vicinity of Bingen/White Salmon and includes SR-14 between mileposts 63.5 (SR-141 Alternate) and 68.0 (east of Bingen city limits) including the BNSF main line and Port of Klickitat to the south. The study will result in the development of a final study report that summarizes the findings from the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study. A summary of the study tasks is provided below:

#### **Task 1: Existing Conditions**

The initial task includes the collection and analysis of the existing corridor conditions. Following the collection and organization of existing data an analysis of the corridor and intersections will be performed to identify current problems and assess the need for improvements to mitigate or eliminate each identified problem. This analysis should be performed using Highway Capacity Manual software, Synchro software, and other transportation tools. This task will include an assessment of the suitability, cost, and effectiveness of each alternative described.

Task 2: Future Conditions

The circulation study includes the development of a 20-year transportation forecast to assess future transportation needs. This will include a 20-year future forecast of vehicle and rail traffic based on available current and historical data as well as calculated estimates of future growth and development (including Port and private properties) on the current transportation network. The 20-year transportation forecast will be used to conduct analysis of the existing corridor to identify future problems and assess the need for additional improvements. This task will include an assessment of the suitability, cost, and effectiveness of each alternative described.

Task 3: Alternative Analysis

The circulation study will assess both existing and future changes to traffic volumes and patterns likely to result from the construction of a grade-separated railroad crossing (located along SR-14 at approximately mile post 67.3) serving the Bingen Point area including impacts to the Port's road system, emergency services, land use access, economy, and other identified impacts. This task will include an alternative analysis of both existing and future traffic impacts resulting from modifications of access at any one or more of the existing at-grade crossings along the corridor, with the construction of the new grade-separated railroad crossing. Analysis of each alternative will include the need for additional improvements to mitigate or eliminate each identified problem. This includes the assessment of the suitability, cost, and effectiveness of each alternative.

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

The SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study will study traffic patterns to better inform the transportation decision process and the Bingen Overpass project. The study also meets the goals of the Klickitat County Regional Transportation Plan by studying transportation needs along the regional transportation system.

Action on this resolution is also consistent with the RTC Work Program which identifies partnership building and entering into enterprise work contracts with member agencies as a program priority

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

WSDOT has committed \$150,000 from the Connecting Washington Transportation Package to fund the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study, and RTC has signed an Agreement with WSDOT to be reimbursed for expenses incurred. RTC will be reimbursed up to \$25,000 to provide project management and oversight services.

Action on this resolution would authorize the RTC Executive Director to enter into a professional services agreement with WPS/Parsons Brinckerhoff up to an amount and not to exceed \$125,000 to implement the SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 11-16-25 “SR-14 Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study – Consultant Contract,” which authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a professional services agreement with WPS/Parsons Brinckerhoff up to an amount and not to exceed \$125,000.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Jack Burkman  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director