

Bi-State Coordination Committee

2017 Annual Report

Overview

The Bi-State Coordination Committee convened on two occasions for collaborative briefings and review of several key regional initiatives. The following summary describes the topics discussed with proposed follow-up actions for the Committee in the coming year.

Key Regional Initiatives

RTC Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study

RTC staff presented recommendations from the RTC's review of Bus on Shoulder transit operations on key regional corridors on both WA and OR. The study corridors included SR-14 and I-205 in WA and segments of I-205 in OR from the state line to roughly I-84 interchange. The study determined that operating transit on freeway shoulders during peak-congested periods is both feasible and could be designed and implemented for safe operations. The study concluded with C-TRAN and WSDOT entering into a demonstration pilot project on SR-14 in WA. This pilot project is an 18-month test to gain insights and to prove the concept. The pilot project was authorized and started in October 2017.

Final Report web link:

<http://rtc.wa.gov/studies/bos>

2018 Bi-State Committee Follow-up:

A Briefing on the interim findings of the SR-14 pilot project would be appropriate.

Regional Transportation Plans

Metro and RTC staff provided briefings regarding the development of the respective Regional Transportation Plans (RTP). Metro's

RTP update is on track to be completed by mid-2018 and RTC's RTP to be updated by year-end. Common themes emerging in both RTPs include: major policy review and updates to the regional project inventory; evaluation of future regional funding opportunities; and, assessment of rapidly emerging technologies as a force of change in urban transportation mobility. Further, coordination has begun on alignment of regional project descriptions for projects of bi-state significance and evaluation of bi-state transportation system management strategies.

Metro's RTP project website:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/2018-regional-transportation-plan>

RTC's RTP project website:

<http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/rtp/clark/update>

YR 2018 Bi-State Committee Follow-up:

Briefings on both RTP and final project lists should occur in advance of adoption.

Legislative Updates

2017 was an active year of transportation policy development and project funding among the two state legislatures. In Oregon, HB-2017 was approved and set in motion new funding for major regional projects (e.g. Rose Quarter) and authorized a feasibility assessment of value pricing within the Portland region. In Washington, SSB-5806 was approved and authorized the convening of a bi-state legislative task force and inventory of past project work in advancement of the I-5 bridge replacement project.

YR 2018 Bi-State Committee Follow-up:

Briefings on OR and WA Legislative initiatives should occur as appropriate.

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Sharing of Academic Research

Innovations and insights were presented to Committee members by researchers at Portland State University. Graduate student Steve Howland provided a report highlighting the Geography of the Commute, delving into the dynamics of transit and employment accessibility within the Portland/Vancouver region. This type of research can be beneficial to Committee members, agency staff, and regional leaders who seek to provide effective and equitable regional transportation services for employees and employers within this growing region. A copy of this research paper can be found in the Summer 2017 edition of the MetroScape magazine.

Research Paper web link:

https://www.pdx.edu/ims/sites/www.pdx.edu.ims/files/Atlas_commute_summer_2017.pdf

What's Ahead for 2018...

Committee work in 2018 will be focused on reviewing updates to Regional Transportation Plans and briefings on regional study initiatives now underway. Additional work will take place regarding evaluating the Bi-State Committee's focus and opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration and decision making.

