



Current Study Status – Summer 2007

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is partnering with local jurisdictions and agencies to study Clark County’s future high capacity transit (HCT) options, such as bus rapid transit, streetcars, light rail and other modes. Clark County has grown significantly over the past 25 years and will continue to grow, bringing economic benefits as well as increased roadway congestion and travel delays throughout the county. The Clark County HCT System Study is taking a fresh look at the county’s future HCT needs and possibilities.

The study is moving forward with its second phase of analysis. This information sheet provides an update on the study’s status, recent study milestones, and other important developments. Further details are available on the study website at <http://rtc.wa.gov/hct>.

The following “staircase” shows the study schedule, progress made to date, and anticipated next steps:

Purpose Statement

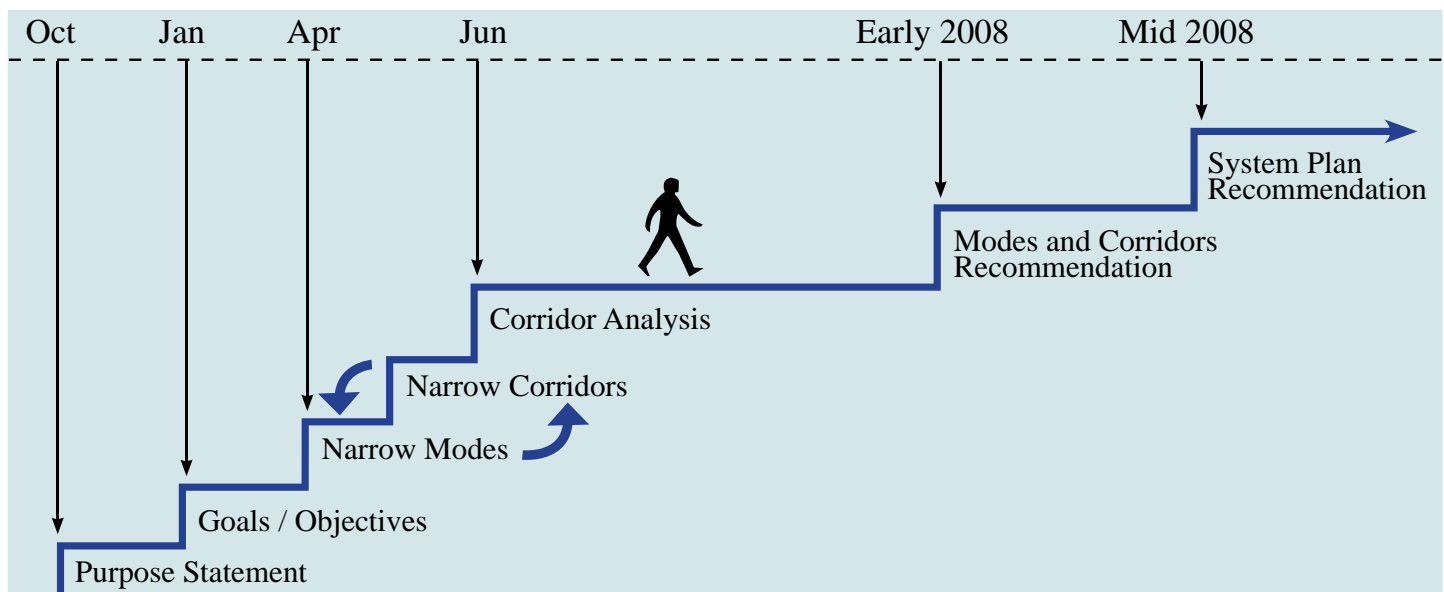
The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) with input received from the study’s Steering Committee developed the study’s purpose statement to guide the overall study process. The purpose statement reads:

The purpose of the Clark County High Capacity Transit System Study is to identify a high capacity transit system that provides efficient and high quality transit service connecting county residents with where they want to go.

Goals & Objectives Adopted

The study Task Force and Steering Committee developed and adopted study goals and objectives to guide the study team in their assessment of potential high capacity transit (HCT) modes and travel corridors.

Study Schedule



Study goals and objectives include:

- Enhance overall transportation opportunities for Clark County residents and businesses
- Provide transit riders with an accessible, efficient and well-connected regional transit system
- Support a vibrant and sustainable Clark County economy
- Support livable communities
- Support a healthy environment
- Develop a system that can be funded and demonstrates stewardship of public funds
- Provide for the long-term viability of the HCT System Plan

Narrowing Modes & Corridors

The study team, with approval from the RTC Board of Directors and consensus from Task Force and Steering Committee members, reached a major study milestone by

narrowing the potential modes and corridors under consideration using the following criteria:

Modes Criteria

- Alignment with study purpose and goals
- Proven technologies
- Economic development impacts
- Capital costs
- Land use compatibility

Corridors Criteria

- Travel demand (i.e. anticipated vehicle trips, existing transit riders, and number travelers connecting the same destinations)
- Travel conditions (i.e. congestion and travel times)
- Land use and growth (i.e. existing support in local land use plans, anticipated population growth and density, anticipated employment growth and density, and existing activity centers and travel destinations)
- Environmental and socio-economic concerns

The study team will continue to analyze the following modes and corridors:

Modes

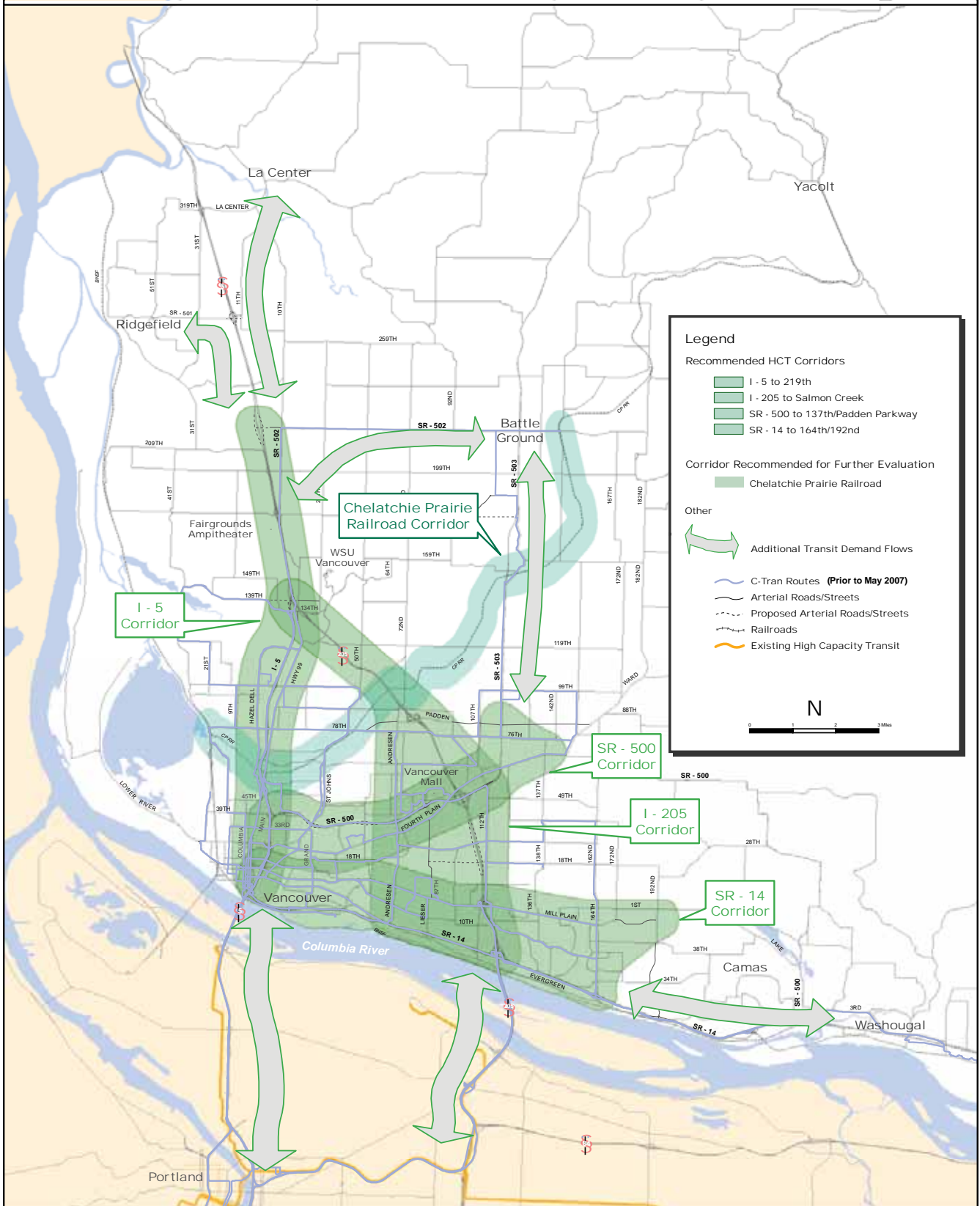
- Bus rapid transit (BRT)
- BRT lite
- Commuter rail
- Light rail transit (LRT)
- Street car

Corridors

- I-5 (Columbia River to 219th Street/SR 502)
- I-205 (Columbia River to NE 134th Street)
- SR-500 (from Downtown Vancouver to 137th on Fourth Plain and to Padden Parkway on SR-500)
- SR-14/Mill Plain (from Downtown Vancouver on Mill Plain to 192nd Street and on SR-14 to 164th Avenue)
- Chelatchie Prairie Railroad for Preliminary Evaluation and Potential



This image shows the travel corridors currently under consideration, along with other desired travel paths between important destinations in Clark County.



Next Steps

Having narrowed the modes and corridors, the study team is analyzing which HCT modes would work best in which corridors. The detailed corridor analysis will include:

- General design concepts for HCT
- Land use and transportation issues
- Ridership potential
- Comparative HCT cost estimates

After completion of the detailed corridor analysis, the study will focus on the best way for the corridors to work together as a complete system. This part of the study will focus on issues such as:

- Which modes and alignments have the most potential?
- How are the modes compatible across corridors and with the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project?
- What are the strategies to integrate the Clark County HCT system with the CRC Project, C-TRAN, and the TriMet system?
- What are the appropriate set of corridors and potential HCT improvements to include in the system plan?

The outcome of the study will be a comprehensive HCT plan for Clark County that will include:

- Promising HCT corridors
- Potential HCT modes and alignments within the corridors
- Identification of a priority corridor(s)
- Recommended HCT policies

Columbia River Crossing & C-TRAN Coordination

The Clark County HCT System Study strives to provide all travelers with a well-connected regional transit system. To accomplish this aim, project team members are working closely with the CRC Project and C-TRAN team members to assure smooth connections and seamless integration of travel options in the future.

The CRC Project is working to improve highway capacity and transit service in the I-5 corridor across the Columbia River. CRC is currently evaluating a range of transit alternatives (in conjunction with highway

bridge alternatives) to improve mobility, reliability, and accessibility for automobile, freight, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian users of the I-5 corridor from State Route 500 in Vancouver to Columbia Boulevard in Portland. C-TRAN, Clark County's regional transit agency, will provide the crucial local connection for any future HCT services and are currently developing their 20-Year Transit Development Plan. The Clark County HCT System Study is coordinating with CRC and C-TRAN in the following specific areas:

- Project team members from each agency or organization regularly share project information, technical analyses and assumptions, coordinate schedules, discuss community feedback and conduct other actions to assure project coordination.
- The Clark County HCT System Study is coordinating with the CRC Project regarding future transportation data and transit operations needed to assure logical and efficient transit connections in the future.
- The Clark County HCT System Study also coordinates specifically with C-TRAN's long-range planning efforts to assure seamless transit connections between any future HCT system and local transit routes and modes.

Get Involved

Comments and questions from the Clark County community are essential to the success of this study effort. Please get involved and share your comments by:

- Visiting the study website at <http://rtc.wa.gov/hct> for more study information, public event announcements, new online surveys and quizzes, and our comment form
- Sharing your comments by email or calling: Dale Robins at the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
hct@rtc.wa.gov
(360) 397-6067