



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
**DATE:** June 25, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** **Transportation Alternatives Program Selection FY 2013-2016,  
Resolution 07-13-17**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*The purpose of this resolution is to request RTC Board action on the selection and programming of projects for the 2013-2016 Transportation Alternatives Program. Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of approximately \$2.2 million in regionally allocated federal funds for ten projects across Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties.*

### BACKGROUND

The Regional Transportation Council as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) is responsible for selecting Transportation Alternatives Program projects for the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region. Once the Board completes their selection process, the selected projects will be amended into the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). After the selected projects are programmed in the MTIP and STIP, agencies can proceed with project implementation.

The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is a new federal transportation funding program authorized by Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The TAP program is similar in project eligibility and builds upon the previous Transportation Enhancement Program.

Beginning in December of 2012, RTC staff began working with RTAC to develop a draft TAP project selection process. At the February 4, 2013 RTC Board meeting, the Board provided comment on the draft TAP selection process. The RTC Board then adopted the TAP selection schedule and process at their March 2013 meeting. The adopted schedule targeted the project selection decision for the July RTC Board meeting. (Additional information on RTC's TAP program can be found at the following link <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/tap/> )

The purpose of this resolution is to provide an overview of the 2013-2016 Transportation Alternatives Program selection process and to request RTC Board selection and programming of the Transportation Alternatives Program projects.

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

In order for a project to be eligible for Transportation Alternative Program funding, that project must include at least one of the qualifying activities and relate to the surface transportation system. The following is a list of the qualifying activities:

- Bike/Pedestrian facilities
- Safe routes for non-drivers
- Abandoned railroad corridors for trails
- Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Control of outdoor advertising
- Historic preservation of transportation facilities
- Vegetation management practices
- Archaeological activities
- Environmental mitigation activities
- Recreational Trails Program
- Safe Routes to School Program

## FUNDING

RTC as the MPO/RTPO for Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties received an allocation of \$553,803 in Transportation Alternatives Program Enhancement Funds for 2013, of which 12% must be spent in rural areas. For the purpose of the 2013-2016 selection, RTC has assumed that the allocation would remain constant over the four year period. This would result in a total allocation of \$2,215,212 in Transportation Alternatives Program funds for the four year period, of which \$260,000 must be spent in the rural areas. The three county rural area includes the portion of Clark County that is outside the federal urban boundaries of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, and Battle Ground, and all of Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

## SUBMITTAL PROCESS AND PROJECTS

Applications for Transportation Enhancement funding were due to RTC on Friday, April 26, 2013. Ten projects were submitted to RTC for a total Transportation Alternatives Program request of just over \$3 million. Eight of the projects were within Clark County, and two projects were outside of Clark County. The full list of projects is summarized below:

- **Battle Ground Chelatchie Prairie Rails-with-Trails:** The City of Battle Ground will construct a portion of the Chelatchie Prairie Rails-with-Trails between Main Street and Rasmussen Boulevard. The Trail will be a 12-foot wide shared use path with amenities.
- **Camas NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike and Pedestrian Trail Link:** The City of Camas will construct a pedestrian and bike link on the south side of NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW Beech Street to SE 201<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- **Clark County Hazel Dell Area Sidewalk:** Clark County will construct over a half-mile of concrete sidewalk at two locations in Hazel Dell area. On the east side of Hazel Dell Avenue from NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street south to almost Alki Road and on the south side of NW/NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street from NW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue east to almost Hazel Dell Avenue.
- **Clark County Salmon Creek Avenue Multi-Use Pathway:** Clark County will construct a detached multi-use path on the north side of NE Salmon Creek Avenue from the WSU-Vancouver entrance to Pleasant Valley Park.

- **Klickitat County 6<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalks (Lyle)**: Klickitat County will construct 6-foot wide sidewalk along 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the Town of Lyle, from Lyle Avenue to SR-14, including frontage improvements.
- **La Center Aspen at 18<sup>th</sup> Street Crosswalk**: The City of La Center will construct a crosswalk, concrete access ramp, and warning signal to allow pedestrians and bicyclists to cross Aspen Avenue at 18<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Port of Vancouver Multi-Modal Path**: The Port of Vancouver will construct approximately one-half mile section of multi-modal path along SR-501 from the convergence of Mill Plain/Fourth Plain to the Port Office.
- **Port of Vancouver Port Connector Bike/Pedestrian Path**: The Port of Vancouver will design a bicycle and pedestrian shared use path along the southern shoulder of State Route 501 from the Port Office to Gateway Avenue trail.
- **Stevenson Bridging Byway Communities, Phase II**: The City of Stevenson will pave 12-foot pathway and landscape from the Scenic Overlook on Rock Creek Drive to a new plaza/rest area on Mallicott Road.
- **Vancouver Evergreen Trail**: The City of Vancouver will complete a portion of the Evergreen Highway Trail by constructing a 10-foot shared use path on the south side of SE Evergreen Highway from SE Chelsea Avenue to SE Image Road.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

After receiving projects and prior to beginning the evaluation process, RTC invited the public to comment on proposed Transportation Alternatives Program projects. The public was able to comment on proposed projects via RTC's website or by attending an Open House held at the Vancouver Community Library on May 8, 2013. Comments were received from nine individuals, in support of the program and projects. Public comments were provided to the evaluation team to inform the evaluation process.

## **EVALUATION PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATION**

RTC formed an evaluation team to evaluate and rank the proposed Transportation Alternatives Program projects. The evaluation team included two citizens and a staff person from C-TRAN, WSDOT and RTC. The Evaluation Team evaluated projects based on regional TAP criteria as adopted by the RTC Board. The Evaluation Team served as an advisory committee to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). The Evaluation Team's scores and ranking were presented to RTAC for review at their June 21, 2013 meeting. RTAC discussed the evaluation and ranking and concurred with the Evaluation Team's ranking.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is recommending that the top nine projects be funded. The 10<sup>th</sup> ranked project would be funded for design only. The following table displays the RTAC recommendation:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Average Ranking</b>	<b>TAP Request</b>
1	6 <sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk (CN)	Klickitat Co.	2.6	\$125,000
2	Hazel Dell Area Sidewalk (PE,CN)	Clark Co.	2.8	\$442,000
3	Port Multi-Modal Path (PE,CN)	Port of Van.	4.0	\$289,600
4	NW 18 <sup>th</sup> Av. Bike & Ped. Trail (PE,CN)	Camas	4.2	\$220,000
5	Aspen Av. at 18 <sup>th</sup> St. Crosswalk (CN)	La Center	5.2	\$19,700
6	Chelatchie Prairie Rails-with-Trails (PE,CN)	Battle Ground	5.4	\$275,000
7	Bridging Byways Communities (CN)	Stevenson	5.6	\$66,400
8	Port Connector Bike/Ped Path (PE)	Port of Van.	6.8	\$60,800
9	Salmon Creek Av. Multi-Use Path (PE,CN)	Clark Co.	8.2	\$567,800
10	Evergreen Trail (PE,RW,CN)	Vancouver	8.8	\$100,000

### **POLICY IMPLICATION**

Action on this resolution will select and program ten projects for federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding. These projects will enhance the surface transportation system throughout the three county RTPO region.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATION**

Action on this resolution would select and amend the 2013-2016 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to add \$1,974,900 in federal TAP funding for eight projects in Clark County. In addition, the RTPO TIP will be amended to add \$191,400 for a project in both Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 07-13-17, "Transportation Alternatives Program Selection FY 2013-2016."

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2013,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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William J. Ganley  
Chair of the Board

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Dean Lookingbill  
Transportation Director