



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: June 24, 2014
SUBJECT: **Transportation Improvement Program Call For Projects**

AT A GLANCE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the RTC Board with key information regarding the Transportation Improvement Program call for projects and update the Board on current project status.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) prioritizes and programs regionally significant transportation projects for the Clark County region. The RTC Board, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, has selection and programming authority for the following regionally allocated, federal transportation programs: Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). In addition to the projects selected by the RTC Board, the Transportation Improvement Program includes regionally significant projects selected through other selection processes.

Projects programmed in the TIP must be drawn either directly from specific project recommendations made in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or are developed from RTP policy recommendations (preservation, safety, etc.). Projects that add capacity must be a result of project needs identified by the Congestion Management Process and be listed in the RTP.

The regional project selection process begins with a call for projects in June and is completed with the adoption of a TIP at the October RTC Board meeting. The first part of this memorandum outlines the process and funding available for programming this year.

TIP CALL FOR PROJECTS

Consistent with the TIP adopted policies, procedures, and project criteria, RTC has initiated a call for projects to local agencies in the Clark County region. Project applications are to be submitted to RTC by Friday, July 25, 2014, for estimated calendar year 2018 federal STP and CMAQ funds. Once project applications are submitted, they will be evaluated per the adopted project criteria. Following the ranking of projects and given the funding levels, the projects will be programmed into the draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program and presented for Board approval at the October 7, 2014 meeting.

The estimated federal FY 2018 funding levels are listed below.

- Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP-TMA) - \$5.0 million
- Rural Surface Transportation Program (STP-Rural) - \$1.6 million
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) - \$3.1 million
- Transportation Alternatives Program – No Program

FEDERAL FY 2014 PROJECT OBLIGATION STATUS

As the Board may recall, RTC is operating under a “use it or lose it” statewide Local Agency Federal Obligation Authority Policy. The policy requires that the region receive project funding approval (obligation) in excess of an established obligation authority target. If the region fails to reach this level, it will lose the portion of funding that falls below the obligation level for that year.

For federal fiscal year 2014, RTC was given an obligation authority target of \$6.1 million. The target includes STP, CMAQ and TAP program funding and represents the minimum amount of federal transportation funding to be delivered to projects in FY 2014. Our region has obligated \$9.4 million as of May 31, 2014, exceeding the target by \$3.3 million. If the other MPO’s around the state were to fail in meeting their targets, RTC would be eligible to receive a portion of those unobligated funds.

Much of the region’s success in meeting our obligation target can be attributed to projects that were programmed in out years but were implemented in 2014. To help insure that the region meets our obligation authority target, the RTC Board adopted procedures and policies. The Project Delay Policy allows up to one year delay from the date provided by agencies on their RTC project applications. There are a few projects which are required to obligate by the end of calendar year 2014 or funds could be lost.