



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director  
**DATE:** June 30, 2015   
**SUBJECT:** **Transportation Alternatives Program Project Selection,  
Resolution 07-15-11**

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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 2017-2018 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of approximately \$1.5 million in regionally allocated federal funds for five projects in the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) provides funding for a variety of alternative transportation projects. Transportation Alternative eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, viewing areas, recreational trails, and safe routes to school.

RTC staff worked with member agencies to develop the process by which TAP projects would be selected. For more information on the selection process and submitted projects, please go to RTC's TAP web page at <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tap>.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the 2017-2018 Transportation Alternatives Program selection process and to request RTC Board selection and programming of the Transportation Alternatives Program projects. In June, the Skamania and Klickitat Transportation Policy Committees and the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed and recommended that the RTC Board of Directors select and program the highest rated TAP projects.

### FUNDING

RTC has a total of \$1,545,000 available for TAP projects in the three-county region for years 2017-2018. Of this \$957,000 must be used in the urban area, \$193,000 must be used in the rural area, and \$395,000 is flexible and can be used in either the urban or rural area. The three county rural areas include the area outside the federal urban boundaries of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, and Battle Ground.

## SUBMITTAL PROCESS AND PROJECTS

Applications for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding were due to RTC on Friday, April 17, 2015. Seven projects were submitted to RTC for a total Transportation TAP request of almost \$2.7 million and total project cost of \$10.9 million.

### 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program Applications

- **Clark County Highway 99 Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements:** Clark County will reconstruct approximately 0.75 mile narrow, substandard sidewalk along the west side of Highway 99 between NE 63<sup>rd</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Streets. TAP request of \$250,000.
- **Clark County/Ridgefield Main Avenue Access Improvements:** Western Federal Lands Highway Division will construct approximately 0.5 mile of multi-use pathway along Main Street from Ridgefield (370' south of City limits) to the northern end of the Carty Unit (approximately NW 291<sup>st</sup> Street). TAP request of \$200,000.
- **Klickitat County Fairgrounds Road Sidewalk:** Klickitat County will construct the first phase of 0.26 mile of sidewalk along Fairgrounds Road in Goldendale area. The project includes traffic calming and streetscape. TAP request of \$200,000.
- **La Center East 4<sup>th</sup> Street at Stonecreek Drive LED Pedestrian Signs:** The City of La Center will provide a safer crosswalk by installing warning signals to allow pedestrians and bicyclists to safely cross 4<sup>th</sup> Street at Stonecreek Drive. TAP request of \$47,000.
- **Port of Vancouver Port Connector Bike/Pedestrian Path Segment 2:** The Port of Vancouver will construct a 0.5 mile bicycle and pedestrian shared use path along the southern shoulder of State Route 501 from the Port Office to Gateway Avenue trail. TAP request of \$500,000.
- **Vancouver Columbia River Renaissance Trail Extension & Grant Street Overlook:** The City of Vancouver will extend the Renaissance Trail for approximately 0.5 mile through the Columbia Waterfront Park. The trail will widen to form the Grant Street overlook plaza and viewpoint. TAP request of \$800,000.
- **Washougal's Columbia River Trail:** The City of Washougal will construct a 0.63 mile shared-use trail along South A Street from the Port of Camas-Washougal trail to Steamboat Landing Park. TAP request of \$693,364.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

After receiving projects and prior to beginning the evaluation process, RTC invited the public to comment on proposed Transportation Alternatives projects. The public was able to comment on proposed projects via RTC's website. Several comments and letters of support were received in agreement of the program and for many of the projects. Public comments were provided to the evaluation team to inform their evaluation.

## EVALUATION PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATION

RTC formed an evaluation team to evaluate and rank proposed TAP projects. The evaluation team included a citizen representative from the Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and staff members from C-TRAN, WSDOT, Clark County Health Department, and RTC. The Evaluation Team evaluated projects based on adopted TAP criteria. 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 19, 2015 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 five projects receiving funding, with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ranked projects receiving partial funding. The Columbia River Renaissance Trail received remaining urban and Main Avenue Access Improvements receiving remaining rural funding. The following table displays the RTAC recommendation:

Rank	Projects	Agency	TAP Request	TAP Award	Source
1	Port Connector Segment 2	Port of Vancouver	\$500,000	<b>\$500,000</b>	Urban
2	Highway 99 Pedestrian/Bike Improvements	Clark County	\$250,000	<b>\$250,000</b>	Urban
3	East 4th St. LED Pedestrian Sign	La Center	\$47,000	<b>\$47,000</b>	Rural
4	Columbia River Renaissance Trail	Vancouver	\$800,000	<b>\$600,000</b>	Urban/Flex
5	Main Avenue Access Improvements	Clark Co./Ridgefield	\$200,000	<b>\$148,000</b>	Rural/Flex
6	Washougal Columbia Rv. Trail	Washougal	\$693,364	<b>\$0</b>	
7	Fairgrounds Road Sidewalk	Klickitat County	\$200,000	<b>\$0</b>	
				<b>\$1,545,000</b>	

## POLICY IMPLICATION

Action on this resolution will select and program five projects for federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding. These projects will enhance the surface transportation system throughout the RTPO region. Each of these projects is consistent with and implements the current Regional Transportation Plan.

## BUDGET IMPLICATION

Action on this resolution would select and amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program to add \$1,545,000 in federal TAP funding for five projects in Clark County.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 07-15-11, "Transportation Alternatives Program Project Selection."  
Adoption of this resolution includes amending selected TAP projects into the 2015-2018 State  
Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2015,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Melissa Smith  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director