




**STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:**  Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
**DATE:** July 31, 2007  
**SUBJECT:** **SAFETEA-LU Requirements: Adoption of RTC's Public Participation Plan, Resolution 08-07-15**

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**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this resolution is to request RTC Board adoption of Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council's Public Participation Plan. Public participation is a key component of the regional transportation decision-making process. Update of the existing Public Involvement Plan is proposed to meet the new requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). A copy of the proposed Public Participation Plan is attached. RTC's existing Public Involvement Plan was adopted by the RTC Board in July 1994 and updated in October 2001.

All Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), such as RTC, must have commitment to publish, or make available for public view, transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), to hold public meetings at convenient and accessible times and locations. SAFETEA-LU focuses on providing opportunities for the public and stakeholders to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning process. SAFETEA-LU requires that the Public Participation Plan provide information on how RTC will conduct public outreach, involvement and participation. Under SAFETEA-LU, the PPP must also describe visualization techniques RTC will use in order to make the metropolitan transportation planning information available to the public and to help explain the metropolitan transportation planning process.

RTC's Public Participation Plan includes a broad range of public information and participation opportunities in planning for regional transportation facilities and strategies and in programming of regional transportation projects. RTC recognizes the importance of public participation at the local level and will note public participation and input resulting from local transportation planning and project programming. RTC will continue to coordinate with local jurisdictions and agencies in public participation activities to ensure a collaborative approach wherever possible.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the draft PPP at its April 20 meeting. Subsequently, the RTC Board reviewed the draft PPP at its May 1 meeting, made some

suggestions to improve on the draft and approved its release for public comment. Following the RTC Board meeting, the draft PPP was released on May 8 for a required 45-day public comment period. Notices of its release for public comment were published in local newspapers including the Columbian, the Battle Ground Reflector, the Camas Post Record, the El Hispanic News and the Skanner. The draft PPP was also made available at branches of the Fort Vancouver library system and at Camas library and was posted to RTC's website. No public comments were received on the proposed PPP.

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

The adoption of the Public Participation Plan incorporates updated federal SAFETEA-LU requirements for public participation including information on how RTC will conduct public outreach, involvement and participation and use of visualization techniques. RTC continues its commitment to publish, or make available for public view, transportation plans, and transportation improvement programs (TIPs), and to hold public meetings at convenient and accessible times and locations. The Public Participation Plan covers both federal and state requirements for public participation in transportation planning activities of RTC as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Clark County region and as state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the Clark, Klickitat and Skamania County region. The public participation process must be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure early and continued public awareness of, and access to, the transportation decision-making process. The law requires a 45-day public comment period prior to adoption of the Public Participation Plan and prior to adoption of any updates to the Plan.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

Public participation activities are programmed within the Regional Transportation Program Coordination and Management element of RTC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Revenue sources for this element are a combination of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration planning funds together with local matching funds and state Regional Transportation Planning Organization funds.

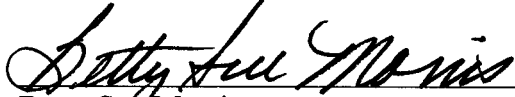
**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 08-07-15, "RTC's Public Participation Plan".

ADOPTED this 7th day of August 2007,

by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

  
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Betty Sue Morris  
Chair of the Board

ATTEST:

  
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Dean Lookingbill  
Transportation Director

ATTACHMENT