



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
**DATE:** December 27, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** **2014 Regional Transportation Plan: Scoping and Decision Making Process**

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### AT A GLANCE

*This is an informational agenda item to kick-off the update process for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County. The Board is asked to consider their list of issues, ideas, and expected outcomes regarding the RTP update. An initial RTP scoping and decision making process is presented in this Memo to stimulate Board feedback and input.*

### INTRODUCTION

The long-range Regional Transportation Plan is a part of the required federal and state transportation planning process and represents the collective strategy for developing a regional transportation system to provide both mobility and accessibility for person trips and freight. The RTP includes all transportation modes and presents the framework plan to guide the longer-term development of the regional transportation system. The Plan supports the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County and existing and future economic development. Regular update of the RTP is a federal requirement to ensure continuation of federal transportation funding to the region. Update to the RTP is needed not only to fulfill federal requirements but also to maintain consistency between state, regional, and local plans. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an overview of key RTP elements and decision points for the 2014/15 RTP update. The update process begins with articulation of the vision and policies for regional transportation development and concludes with an updated set of regional transportation project priorities.

### THE CURRENT MTP

The current Metropolitan Transportation Plan, with a horizon year of 2035, was adopted by the RTC Board in December 2011 with a Plan amendment to incorporate the C-TRAN Fourth Plain Transit Improvement Project's Locally Preferred Alternative adopted in August 2012. The current Plan's 2035 population forecast is 641,800 and employment forecast is 256,200. The land use allocation is based on the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County (update adopted September 2007). Identification of projects in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, also known as the MTP, allows for the programming of projects for federal and state funding in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

### 2014 RTP UPDATE

The 2014 RTP update is driven by federal requirements that a Plan update must be adopted at least every four years. An RTP update must be in place before the end of 2015 to ensure

uninterrupted receipt of federal funds for transportation projects programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RTP update must address prescribed federal planning factors including support for economic vitality, transportation safety, security, accessibility and mobility options for people and freight, environmental protection and enhancement, energy conservation, quality of life, transportation system connectivity, efficient system management and operation and preservation of the existing system. The adopted plan must also maintain consistency between federal, state and local plans. These plans include local comprehensive and capital facilities plans, C-TRAN’s 20-year Transit Development Plan, WSDOT’s Highway System Plan, WSDOT’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the Washington Transportation Plan with policy goals of economic vitality, preservation, safety, mobility, environment and stewardship,

**2014 RTP UPDATE: DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The RTP update process begins early in 2014 and is likely to take at least a year to develop to ensure all Plan elements are adequately addressed and that the public and stakeholders are provided opportunities for engagement in the process. The RTC Board will be asked to take action to adopt the Plan update. The updated RTP will incorporate an updated set of regional project priorities and provide consistency between state, regional and local plans. The table below provides a summary of the RTP development process with key elements to address during the next few months as progress is made toward adoption of the updated Plan.

<b>2014 RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and KEY ELEMENTS</b>		
<b>Steps in Process</b>	<b>Key 2014 RTP Update Elements</b>	<b>RTC Board Decision Points</b>
Confirm state and federal policies and requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal policies and requirements (MAP-21)</li> <li>• State policies and requirements</li> </ul>	
Growth forecast and allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop updated population and employment forecast for 2035                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Synchronize with Local Comprehensive Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Address land use/transportation interactions and integration</li> <li>• Update Regional Travel Forecast Model for 2035</li> </ul>	RTC Board: 2035 growth forecast decision
Establish regional policy framework to guide transportation system development, goals and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review RTP vision and goals, regional transportation strategy</li> <li>• Review federal functional Classification of Roads</li> <li>• Review Designated Regional Transportation System (including highway, transit, rail, pedestrian and bicycle networks)</li> <li>• Determine transportation system performance measures</li> </ul>	RTC Board: discussion on policy direction

<b>2014 RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and KEY ELEMENTS</b>		
<b>Steps in Process</b>	<b>Key 2014 RTP Update Elements</b>	<b>RTC Board Decision Points</b>
Plan development: elements, modes, project priorities, community communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit RTP vision and goals and regional transportation strategy, including system performance targets</li> <li>• Focus elements:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ System preservation and maintenance</li> <li>○ Safety and security</li> <li>○ Transportation system management and operations</li> <li>○ Transportation demand management</li> <li>○ Active transportation (pedestrian, bicycle, safe routes to school, access to transit)</li> <li>○ Changing demographics and lifestyles</li> <li>○ Freight mobility</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify transportation system deficiencies with linkages between the Congestion Management Process and RTP</li> <li>• Estimate revenues/expenditures (year of expenditure). How to meet travel demand with limited revenues?</li> <li>• Identify RTP transportation system improvements and priorities</li> <li>• Consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans and policies (e.g. Washington Transportation Plan, Highway System Plan, local comprehensive and capital facilities plans)</li> <li>• Identify transportation revenue sources, estimate transportation project costs and fiscally constrain list of RTP projects (as required by federal law)</li> <li>• Refine travel forecast model networks based on fiscally constrained project list</li> <li>• Public participation and outreach to resource agencies and tribes</li> <li>• Air quality conformity determination</li> </ul>	RTC Board: decision on transportation priorities
Recommendation for Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource agency review and public comment period</li> <li>• Adoption of RTP Update</li> </ul>	RTC Board: action to adopt RTP update (likely timeframe: early 2015)

As part of the RTP update development process, RTC will rely on the technical expertise of local planning partners and on input and assistance provided by members of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

## **NEXT STEPS**

RTC staff will provide the Board with status reports on the RTP update throughout 2014. The Board will be asked for policy direction and will be asked to make recommendations at key decision points during the RTP's development process.