



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: April 29, 2014
SUBJECT: **Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2015,
Resolution 05-14-09**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The action requested is adoption of Resolution 05-14-09 to adopt RTC's FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), including the continuation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization funding agreement. RTC's UPWP is prepared annually as a requirement for the receipt of federal and state transportation planning funds and is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2014 Work Plan and Budget. The RTC Board had opportunity to review the draft FY 2015 UPWP and provide input at the March 4 meeting when this requested action was previewed.

INTRODUCTION

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) documents the transportation planning activities to be carried out by RTC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Clark County (within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area). The UPWP is prepared annually and transportation planning activities are performed in response to the requirements of all MPOs outlined in federal regulations; United States Code (USC) Titles 23 and 49. RTC's FY 2015 UPWP (see attached document) covers a one year period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The UPWP is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2014 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the RTC Board in December 2013 (RTC Board Resolution 12-13-25) extending the Work Plan's timeframe by six months. In addition to describing upcoming transportation planning activities, the UPWP also details the funding sources and plan for implementation of the program.

The FY 2015 UPWP anticipated regional focus in four major sections: (1) Regional Transportation Planning Program, (2) Data Management, Travel Forecasting, Air Quality, and Technical Services, (3) Regional Transportation Program Coordination and Management, and (4) Transportation Planning Activities of State and Local Agencies.

The UPWP must be developed by the MPO in cooperation with state Department of Transportation and transit operators. As a federally designated Transportation Management Area (TMA) serving the Clark County region (23 CFR § 450.308), the RTC's UPWP must include a discussion of the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area. The UPWP work tasks carry out the requirements of regional transportation planning per 23 CFR § 450.306(a), and the work program is constructed to describe who will perform the work, schedule for work completion, the resulting products, proposed funding and sources of Federal and matching funds.

POLICY IMPLICATION

The UPWP is expected to reflect federal, state, and local transportation planning emphasis areas (PEAs). The Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and Washington State Department of Transportation annually identify transportation PEAs to be addressed in the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes and these are outlined on pages xi through xv of RTC's proposed UPWP.

Since the RTC Board reviewed the draft UPWP at its March 4 meeting, the only substantive change to the document has been in the section describing recently issued federal PEAs on page xii. These changes resulted from guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation in mid-April 2014 directing Metropolitan Planning Organizations to include work in three areas: 1) MAP-21 Implementation, 2) Models of Regional Planning Cooperation, and 3) Ladders of Opportunity. Each of these emphasis areas are briefly described below:

- MAP-21 implementation involves a transition to performance based planning and programming to achieve objectives-driven, transportation system performance outcomes. This had already been anticipated in RTC's draft UPWP specifically in the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Data work elements.
- Models of Regional Planning Cooperation promotes cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries. Federal guidance states "this is particularly important where more than one MPO or State serves an urbanized area or adjacent urbanized areas", such as RTC and Metro serving as MPOs in the Portland-Vancouver region. Again, RTC's draft UPWP anticipates continued close cooperation between RTC and Metro as described in the Bi-State Coordination section on page x as well as in the Regional Transportation Program Coordination and Management work element.
- Ladders of Opportunity directs MPOs to focus on identifying transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services such as housing, employment, health care, schools/education, and recreation. RTC will address this issue under the Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Transportation Data and Human Services Transportation Plan work elements with identified solutions programmed for funding as part of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Stakeholder Review

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) helps to develop the UPWP and has opportunity to review drafts throughout the development process. The RTC Board also had opportunity to review the draft document at its March 4 meeting. The Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area is served by two MPOs; RTC serves the Washington portion of the region and Metro serves the Oregon portion. In a bi-state region, the MPOs must cooperate and coordinate

development of their respective UPWPs. The draft UPWPs were jointly reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Washington and Oregon State Departments of Transportation at a meeting with RTC and Metro staff held on February 20, 2014. The RTC's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed FY 2015 UPWP at their April 18 meeting and recommended RTC Board adoption.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The FY 2015 UPWP budget is consistent with and extends from RTC's 2014 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the RTC Board in December 2013. Annual revenue sources assumed in the FY 2015 UPWP are an estimated: \$552,822 in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL funds; \$178,303 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds; \$172,495 in state Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) funds; and, \$104,500 of local funds (member dues) are assumed. Final allocations by FHWA, FTA and the State will be set in Fall 2014, and RTC Member dues are collected in January of each year. Consistent with the MPO local funding agreement, Local funds and state RTPO funds are used to provide match for the federal funds. Should the assumed funding allocations change significantly during the UPWP period, the Work Program will be amended accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt the FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program and authorize the Executive Director to file applications for regional transportation funding, to execute grant agreements, and to file any assurances or required documentation relating to the FY 2015 UPWP.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 05-14-09, "Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2015".

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2014,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Jack Burkman
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Attachment