



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: December 30, 2014
SUBJECT: **Clark County Transportation Alliance - 2015-2016 Washington State Legislative Policy Statement**

AT A GLANCE – ACTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek RTC Board endorsement of the Clark County Transportation Alliance – 2015-2016 Washington State Legislative Policy Statement.

BACKGROUND

The Clark County Transportation Alliance (CCTA) is an alliance of public and private organizations which was formed as a transportation sub-committee of the volunteer Clark County Governmental Affairs Roundtable. The CCTA Washington State Legislative Policy Statement (Statement) is a call-to-action statement which advocates for funding strategic improvements to the region’s transportation infrastructure. The Statement emphasizes a list of priority regional transportation investments which will be advocated for in the 2015-2016 legislation sessions. The Statement also notes the need for increased revenue which includes direct distribution of new gas tax (or other) revenue to local governments for preservation and maintenance, and continued support for Port and Transit investments.

The Statement was reviewed by the multi-agency CCTA steering committee on October 15, 2014 and the committee recommended release for agency endorsements. Since then, over a dozen local agencies have endorsed the Statement to supplement their local legislative efforts.

This fall, CCTA member agencies participated in two briefing/mobile tours with local legislators and respective Chair/Vice-chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees. The tours were an opportunity for member agencies to showcase their respective projects and for information sharing about the CCTA regional priorities in advance of the 2015 legislative session. The tours appeared successful in bringing attention to the regional project priorities.

Time is of the essence and cohesive regional advocacy on priority transportation investments is critical during the upcoming sessions of the Legislature.

ACTION REQUESTED

Endorsement of the 2015-2016 Clark County Transportation Alliance statement is proposed. By endorsement, the RTC’s logo will be added to the cover page indicating support, and staff will participate in the Clark County Transportation Alliance Day in Olympia and share project related information with the region’s Legislative delegation as requested.

Attachment

Clark County Transportation Alliance

2015 - 2016 Washington State Legislative Policy Statement

Transportation Needs and Solutions

A CALL TO ACTION

Clark County is facing unprecedented transportation infrastructure revenue challenges.

- Local and state transportation **safety and mobility needs** continue to grow for both new facilities and for the maintenance of the transportation system.
- Critical **transit and rail/freight** improvements are needed.

Transportation infrastructure is directly related to economic recovery, community development and overall quality of life in southwest Washington. Meeting our transportation needs will require a unified effort by public and private sector leaders and strong, effective leadership by our local legislative delegation. Organizations on the back of this statement ask that our legislators **support the following transportation priorities** in the 2015-16 legislative sessions.

New Revenue Package

A new **comprehensive revenue package**, with direct distributions to local governments for **preservation and maintenance**, is **needed now**. New and enhanced local transportation funding options are needed, as well as, restoration and the maintenance of the Public Work Trust Fund. Recent work of the Connecting Washington Task Force and our own RTC has documented a growing multi-billion dollar transportation infrastructure deficit at the state and regional level in order to meet current and future unmet needs. We respectfully suggest that action take place this legislative session.

Under existing regulatory procedures, transportation projects take too long to build. **Accelerated project permitting** with **regulatory streamlining** would move projects faster and stretch transportation funding.

And, protect existing funding: Protect remaining TPA and Nickel funding for local projects.

Regionally Critical Projects

Critical Clark County and SW Washington projects need to be **included in any project list** associated with any new transportation revenue package. *We urge legislators to rely on RTC for direction on regionally validated local and state system project priorities, beginning with:*

- Vancouver Interstate 5/Mill Plain Interchange (*capacity improvements*)
- Vancouver SR 501 (Mill Plain) Interstate 5 to Port of Vancouver (*capacity and oversize load improvements*)
- Vancouver SR 14/I-205 to 164th Avenue Widening (*add auxiliary lanes*)
- I-205: SR-500 to Padden Expressway (*add auxiliary lanes*)
- Vancouver SR 500 Intersections at 42nd Avenue and 54th Avenue (*capacity and safety improvements*)
- Camas Washougal SR 14 Widening/West Slough Project and Phase 2 Widening SE 6th - 32nd St./Stiles Rd. Project
- Clark County NE 10th Avenue from 149th to 164th St./Whipple Creek project (*new bridge and capacity improvements*)
- Clark County Interstate 5/179th Street Interchange (*capacity improvements*)
- Battle Ground SR 502/SR 503 Congestion Relief Project (*capacity and circulation improvements*)
- Ridgefield Pioneer Street Rail Overpass (*new bridge*)

Public Transit

C-TRAN is an essential component of Clark County's transportation system. The Clark County Transportation Alliance requests that the Legislature support and **enhance funding for public transportation** as a critical mode in the metropolitan and statewide transportation systems, including Regional Mobility Grants and other targeted investment programs.

Ports and Freight

Our ports and rail system play a vital role in the region's economy. Infrastructure investment in our freight systems brings jobs and has direct economic benefits to the region. We ask our legislators to support funding for freight projects: Upgrades to Clark County **Chelatchie Prairie Railroad**; **SR14 improvements** at and near Port of Camas-Washougal; and Port of Ridgefield's **Pioneer Street Railroad Overpass** project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING CCTA CONTACT:
Co-Chairs John McKibbin 360-695-4116 or Mark Brown at 360-790-4427

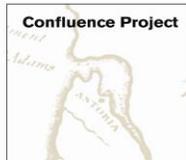
CLARK COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

of the Clark County Governmental Affairs Roundtable
2015-2016 State Legislative Sessions

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND SOLUTIONS



C-TRAN



Sponsoring Organizations:

Camas/Washougal Chamber of Commerce

City of Battle Ground

City of Ridgefield

City of Vancouver

City of Washougal

Clark College

Clark County Association of Realtors

Columbia River Economic Development Council

Confluence Project

C-TRAN

Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

Identity Clark County

Legacy Health Medical Center

Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance

Partners in Careers

PeaceHealth

Port of Camas/Washougal

Port of Ridgefield

Port of Vancouver USA

Regional Transportation Council

Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office

Vancouver Housing Authority

Fort Vancouver National Trust

Vancouver's Downtown Association

Washington State University / Vancouver