



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors

**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director 

**DATE:** September 27, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **2020 Regional Competitive Grant Awards, Resolution 10-16-23**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*RTC Board action is requested to select 2020 regional competitive grant awards, for federal STP and CMAQ funds. The recommended action was endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). Awarding grant funds to priority regional projects will provide approximately \$8.8 million in federal highway funds for implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan. The selected projects will be incorporated into the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) along with other regionally significant projects.*

### INTRODUCTION

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council in consultation with member agencies is responsible for selecting projects for the regional allocation of federal highway funds. This includes the regional allocation of Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

Since the need for transportation improvements exceeds the available revenue, and as required by federal regulation, a competitive grant process is conducted for the distribution of regionally allocated federal highway funds.

The regional grant selection process begins with local agencies identifying and submitting priority projects for consideration. The grant selection process includes the following three steps:

1. **Project Screening:** Projects are reviewed for consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan, land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria.
2. **Evaluation and Ranking by Needs Criteria:** Each project is evaluated and ranked against a set of needs criteria which have been adopted by the RTC Board.
3. **Project Selection and Programming:** Projects are selected and programmed for funding utilizing the project information generated by the previous steps.

The RTC Board at their September 6, 2016 meeting completed the first two steps, via their acceptance with the ranking of projects. Adoption of this resolution and the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will complete the final step. RTAC at their September meeting recommended that the RTC Board of Directors select the additional STP and CMAQ grant awards and to also incorporate those projects into the TIP.

**REGIONAL PROJECT SELECTION**

The regional 2020 grant award is completed by matching the project ranking to the available funding levels. RTAC staff is recommending that the following projects be selected for either STP or CMAQ grant awards and programmed in the 2017-2020 TIP:

Surface Transportation Program

The Surface Transportation Program (STP) is the most flexible of all the Federal Highway programs and can be used for a wide range of transportation improvements including highway, transit, and planning projects. This funding program does include an urban and rural allocation. The following STP grant awards are recommended for funding:

**Proposed STP-Urban Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Phase	Score	Award	Total
1	RTC	Urban Freeway Operations Study	PE	N/A	\$150,000	\$173,410
1	RTC	UPWP & CMP	PE	N/A	\$340,000	\$393,064
1	RTC	VAST/TSMO Coordination	PE	N/A	\$325,000	\$375,723
4	Clark County	NE 119th St. East, 87th Av. to 112th Av.	CN	79	\$3,100,000	\$8,377,000
5	Vancouver	NE 137th Av., 49th St. to Fourth Plain	RW	73	\$950,000	\$5,400,000
					<b>\$4,865,000</b>	<b>\$14,719,197</b>

**Proposed STP-Rural Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Phase	Score	Award	Total
1	RTC	UPWP & CMP	PE	N/A	\$60,000	\$69,364
2	Clark County	NE Blair Rd., SR-500 to MP 2.47	CN	64	\$1,000,000	\$2,050,000
					<b>\$1,060,000</b>	<b>\$2,119,364</b>

Congestion Management and Air Quality

The Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) program is used for projects and programs that improve air quality and reduce congestion. CMAQ projects must demonstrate an air quality improvement within the Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area. The following CMAQ grant awards are recommended for funding:

**Proposed CMAQ Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Phase	Score	Award	Total
1	Multi-Agency	Small Cities ATMS	CN	N/A	\$276,000	\$371,400
2	Clark County	STEVE 2	PE/CN	82	\$342,000	\$460,000
3	WSDOT	Centralized Signal System Enhancement	PE/CN	82	\$335,000	\$450,000
4	C-TRAN	Hybrid Buses	All	80	\$1,925,000	\$3,624,250
					<b>\$2,878,000</b>	<b>\$4,905,650</b>

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

The 2020 regional grant selection is consistent with the adopted regional process and will support the goals of and further implement the Regional Transportation Plan. Proposed projects are consistent with the Congestion Management Process, air quality requirements, and are financially constrained.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

Action on this resolution will select and program approximately \$8.8 million in federal funds to enhance the regional transportation system in Clark County.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 10-16-23 “2020 Regional Competitive Grant Awards.”

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Jack Burkman  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director