



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: February 28, 2017 
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan – 2018 Update, Preliminary Scoping**

AT A GLANCE – DISCUSSION

This agenda item will begin the update process for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County. The RTC Board is asked to consider the list of issues, ideas, and expected outcomes regarding the RTP update as well as provide input to supplement the information provided in this Memo prior to finalizing the RTP update’s scoping.

BACKGROUND

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 mobility, accessibility, and reliability 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 supports 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 2018 RTP update.

THE CURRENT RTP

The current Regional Transportation Plan, with a horizon year of 2035, was adopted by the RTC Board in December 2014. The current Plan’s 2035 population forecast is 562,207 and employment forecast is 232,500. For the 2014 RTP, the land use allocation was based on the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County (adopted September 2007 with subsequent amendments). Identification of projects in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, allows for the programming of projects for federal and state funding in the region’s Transportation Improvement Program.

2018 RTP UPDATE

The 2018 RTP update is driven by the need to maintain consistency between federal, state and local plans. Federal planning Rules requires regular RTP update to ensure uninterrupted receipt of federal funds for transportation projects programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The RTP update must continue to 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, promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns, transportation system connectivity, efficient system management and operation, preservation of the existing system, improving transportation system resiliency and reliability, reducing or mitigating the stormwater impacts of surface transportation and enhancing travel and tourism.

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, the State's Target Zero: Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the Washington Transportation Plan with policy goals of economic vitality, preservation, safety, mobility, environment and stewardship,

Below is a list of changes that have occurred since the current RTP was adopted. Each of these listed elements will need to be addressed in the 2018 RTP update.

Since The 2014 RTP Update:

- Federal FAST-Act passed in December 2015.
- Rulemaking related to Performance Based Planning and Programming as required under MAP-21.
- Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area is now in attainment for both ozone (June 15, 2005) and CO (October 21, 2016).
- Congestion Management Process, annual reports for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- Washington Transportation Plan 2035, Phase I, policy direction complete (January 2015), Phase 2 underway.
- WSDOT, Moving Washington Forward: Practical Solutions. Includes least cost planning and practical design.
- VAST Program: 2016 TSMO Plan Update and Implementation Plan (September 2016)
- 2016 Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Elements and Capital Facilities Plan Updates; multiple local jurisdictions.
- CREDC, Clark County Employment Land Study (November 2016).
- Finance:
 - Federal FAST Act, includes new freight funding programs.
 - State, Connecting Washington 16 year program, 11.9 cent gas tax increase (July 1, 2016).
 - State, Transportation Improvement Board, Complete Streets Program (first awards, 2017).

- City of Vancouver, Transportation Benefit District established, \$20 license tab assessed (as of July 2016).
- Battle Ground, Transportation Benefit District established, \$20 license tab assessed (as of July 2015).
- C-TRAN 2030 Plan, 2016 update approved by C-TRAN Board (December 13, 2016).
- C-TRAN, Transit Asset Management Plan, State of Good Repair Performance Targets established (December 2016).
- City of Vancouver’s Westside Mobility Strategy (adopted July 2016).

In Progress:

- Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study (anticipated June 2017).
- WSDOT Corridor Sketch Initiative.
- WSDOT/RTC Ramp Signal Study.
- CREDC, Clark County Economic Development Plan update, (anticipated 2017)
- Columbia River Navigation Channel – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 20-year plan to maintain Columbia River Channel depth at its approved 43-foot depth (anticipated 2018).
- City of Vancouver, Transportation System Plan (TSP) update in 2018.
- City of Vancouver, Collision Data Transportation Safety Analysis.

2018 RTP UPDATE: DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

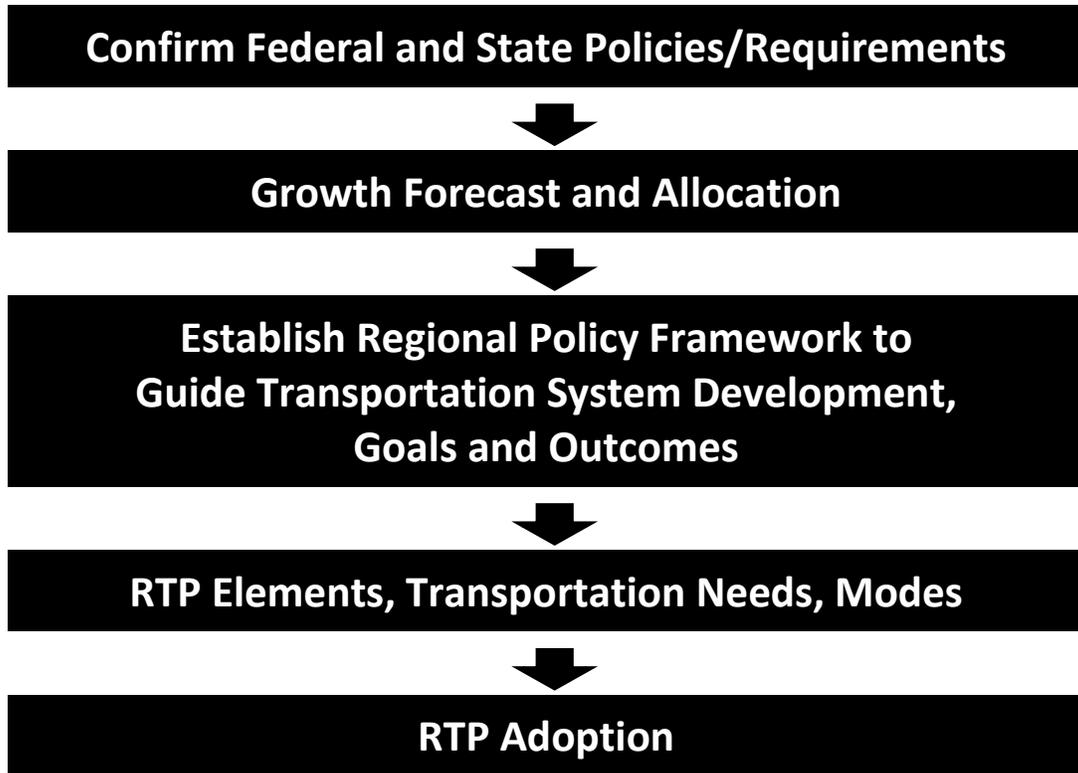
The update process begins with articulation of the vision and policies for regional transportation development and concludes with an updated set of regional transportation project priorities. The RTP update process is now in its formative stage and will take over a year to develop to ensure all Plan elements are adequately addressed and that the public and stakeholders are provided opportunities for engagement in the process. The 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.

2018 RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and KEY ELEMENTS		
Steps in Process	Key 2018 RTP Update Elements	RTC Board Decision Points
Confirm state and federal policies and requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal policies and requirements (FAST-Act) ● State policies and requirements 	
Growth forecast and allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop updated population and employment forecast for 2040 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Synchronize with Local Comprehensive Plan 	RTC Board: 2040 growth forecast decision

2018 RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and KEY ELEMENTS		
Steps in Process	Key 2018 RTP Update Elements	RTC Board Decision Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address land use/transportation interactions and integration • Update Regional Travel Forecast Model for 2040 	
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the public’s views on transportation; system performance, priorities, tradeoffs. 	RTC Board: review stakeholder engagement and public outreach strategies
Establish regional policy framework to guide transportation system development, goals and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review RTP vision and goals, regional transportation strategy • Review Federal Functional Classification of Roads • Review Designated Regional Transportation System (including highway, transit, rail, pedestrian and bicycle networks) 	RTC Board: discussion on policy direction
Plan development: elements, modes, project priorities, community communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit RTP vision and goals and regional transportation strategy • Performance Based Planning and Programming including system performance targets • Focus elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing demographics and lifestyles ○ System preservation and maintenance ○ Safety and security ○ Freight mobility ○ Transportation and economic development ○ Access to essential services; ladders of opportunity ○ Transportation system management and operations ○ Transportation demand management ○ Transportation system design; complete streets where applicable. ○ Active transportation (pedestrian, bicycle, safe routes to school, access to transit) • Address existing transportation system performance and forecast future performance to identify transportation system deficiencies with linkage between the Congestion Management Process and RTP 	RTC Board: review of regional transportation elements and project priorities

2018 RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and KEY ELEMENTS		
Steps in Process	Key 2018 RTP Update Elements	RTC Board Decision Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate revenues/expenditures (year of expenditure). How to meet travel demand with limited revenues? • Identify RTP transportation system improvements and priorities • Consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans and policies (e.g. Washington Transportation Plan, Highway System Plan, local comprehensive and capital facilities plans) • Identify transportation revenue sources, estimate transportation project costs and fiscally constrain a list of RTP projects and transportation strategies (as required by federal law) • Refine travel forecast model networks based on fiscally constrained project list • Public participation and outreach, consultation with resource agencies and tribes 	
Recommendation for Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource agency review and public comment period • Adoption of RTP Update 	RTC Board: action to adopt RTP update

The graphic provided below acknowledges the sequential steps in developing the RTP update.



A provisional timeline calls for the draft 2018 RTP update to be presented to the RTC Board for adoption in December 2018.

NEXT STEPS

An initial RTP scoping and decision making process is presented in this Memo for RTC Board feedback and input. Following Board input, RTC staff will draft the RTP work scope. 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 and feedback from the RTC Board throughout the RTP update process. The RTC Board should expect regular RTP agenda items through 2017 and into 2018.