



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: October 31, 2017
SUBJECT: YR 2018 RTC Work Program - DRAFT

AT A GLANCE - DISCUSSION

The RTC's 2018 Work Plan is founded on the adopted FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program and supplemented by activities to receive additional emphasis during YR 2018. Review of the 2018 Work Program at the November Board meeting precedes staff's proposed adoption of the YR 2018 Budget at the December 5, 2017 Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION

RTC's 2018 Work Program is based on the program activities described in the approved FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (*adopted by: BR 05-17-07*).

UPWP web hyper-link: <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/upwp/docs/UPWP2018-20170502-Adopted.pdf>

RTC's UPWP focuses on the continuing and comprehensive regional planning and collaborative decision making process and general MPO administration (*outlined in detail in the FY 2018 UPWP*). The UPWP work program produces the bulk of the agency's products and services to members. The UPWP work program is informed by accurate data, research, analysis, and special program management, each of which is used to identify needs and strategies that address the RTC region's pressing current and future regional transportation demands.

Supplementing the descriptions of the work program of the UPWP, staff have identified those work efforts that will receive focused emphasis during YR 2018. The intent of the *Emphasis Area* designation is to provide an outline of key activities within Work Program area, which facilitates awareness of emergent activities which respond to a current mandate, external influences, and/or in response to contemporary and relevant regional issues discussion.

YR 2018 EMPHASIS AREAS

An outline of the key Emphasis Areas of the YR 2018 Work Program is attached. Important initiatives within that outline are described in more detail below.

Regional Transportation Plans

In YR 2018, the RTC will be working to complete a major four-year update to the Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County, and will also undertake minor updates (as needed) to the Skamania and Klickitat County Regional Transportation Plans. These regional transportation plan

updates are important, and produce the major policies and projects that the region(s) will be pursuing over the next 20 years.

Emphasis activities that will be in development during the 2018 regional transportation planning process include: development of a web-based public outreach / engagement survey; hiring of college students for project task assignments, and miscellaneous technical support services, the specific scope of which will be identified areas including: finance, project evaluation, MAP-21 performance measures implementation, and economic analysis.

Regional Studies

In addition to development of the three regional transportation plans, RTC staff will be heavily engaged in several regional studies.

RTC is initiating the scoping and development of a Clark region urban freeway operations study. Much of the work in YR 2018 will be laying the groundwork for the partnership (including securing funding partners) and development of the work scope and responsibilities. The catalyst for this evaluation were the recommendation(s) of the most recent Congestion Management Process, which identified a need for focused “operations” study of freeway and transit service enhancements to provide short-term and low-cost project enhancements along urban freeway corridors.

RTC, along with partners within Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties will initiate a periodic update to the Human Services Transportation Plans within the RTC region. This work is funded in part by pass-through funding provided by the WSDOT Public Transit Division (\$40,000). The focus of these updates will be to assess the current needs for services and re-evaluate project priorities; setting the stage for competitive grant funding in coming years.

VAST Partners, with RTC as program manager, will initiate an update to a 10-year needs assessment and update to the regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) architecture and network. This plan will lay the groundwork for continued asset sharing of existing ITS related equipment and also identify future investment needs to keep pace with the evolution of traffic signal and communications technology. Further, the VAST program partners will also continue their work in setting the technology needs and policies for regional acceptance of future vehicle needs through evaluation of regional policies and investment criteria for future *Connected and Autonomous Vehicles*.

Additionally, RTC staff are slated to spend considerable time on several key regional studies and initiatives which are being led by several partner agencies across the region. Among those studies where RTC is likely to provide technical or policy support and review include: the I-5 Legislative Task Force authorized by SB-5806; technical support for C-TRAN’s Mill Plain Blvd. bus rapid transit project evaluation; the Hood River Bridge replacement Environmental Impact Statement; and traffic modeling technical review in conjunction with the ODOT value pricing evaluation.

Lastly, RTC staff serve as technical advisors to member agencies in numerous areas including: traffic modeling, grant writing, study development and project advisory committees, and legislative outreach. This work is expected to remain robust and active over the next year.

Supporting the technical development of these plans and regional coordination efforts, staff is recommending a YR 2018 allocation of \$75,000 in professional services resources to enable support services and technical assistance for these numerous activities and initiatives.

Administrative

Several activities have been identified as focused initiatives in the administrative area, including: updates to the RTC's accounting program in relation to recent standard practice advisories (OPEB accounting rules); and implementation of an ADA facility and program audit for RTC facilities and programs. It is planned that RTC will relocate its primary offices within the Clark County Public Services Center. In conjunction with that planned office relocation, RTC staff are planning for one-time investments in select technology and equipment / facility upgrades.

NEXT STEPS

Following the November Board meeting, staff will finalize the YR 2018 RTC Work Program and accompanying RTC YR 2018 Budget and present both for adoption at the December RTC Board meeting.

Attachments:

- 1) RTC YR 2018 Work Program - Emphasis Areas
- 2) Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2018

RTC YR 2018 Work Program

Emphasis Areas

1. Regional Project Funding

- a. Grant Program Policy and Scoring Review Committee (STBG; CMAQ)
- b. Annual Grant Program Call for Projects/Evaluation/Awards
- c. Regional grant online database and mapping

2. 2040 Regional Transportation Plan

- a. Outreach / Engagement Activities
- b. Technical & Policy Committee Work
 - i. Finance
 - ii. Active Transportation Planning
 - iii. Future Technology (VAST program)
 - iv. Environmental Justice
- c. Call for Project and technical evaluation
- d. MAP-21 performance metrics integration
- e. 10-Year project priority evaluation

3. Regional Studies

- a. Clark regional urban freeway operations study – scoping and partnership phase
- b. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties)
- c. Skamania and Klickitat County Regional Transportation Plan - Updates
- d. Vancouver Areas Smart Trek (VAST) – 10-year ITS Network Needs Assessment
- e. WA SB-5806 I-5 Legislative Task Force (*RTC in technical support role*)
- f. C-TRAN Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit project development (*RTC in technical support role*)
- g. Hood River Bridge EIS (*RTC in technical support role*)
- h. ODOT Value Pricing evaluation (*RTC in technical reviewer role*)

4. MAP-21 Implementation

- a. Performance Target Setting with Board
 - i. Safety (*est. January 2018*)
 - ii. Bridge and Pavement
 - iii. System Performance and CMAQ
- b. Multi-jurisdictional Committee for Target Setting and Performance Monitoring

5. Partnership Building

- a. Bi-State Coordination Committee(s) Support & Outreach
- b. Clark County Transportation Alliance; Legislative support
- c. Partner Outreach and Engagement (ex. CREDC, ICC, MCCED, etc.)
- d. RTC Member technical support and task work

6. Administrative

- a. Ongoing review of administrative policies and procedures
- b. ADA Facility / Compliance Audit
- c. Office relocation
- d. Technology updates
- e. OPEB accounting rules implementation
- f. Student Intern / Project(s)