



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: March 27, 2018
SUBJECT: **Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2019 – DRAFT Review**

AT A GLANCE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board with a DRAFT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in advance of final action at the May RTC Board meeting. The UPWP is prepared annually by RTC as a federal requirement of all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) prior to receipt of federal and state transportation planning and project grant funds. The FY 2019 UPWP is consistent with RTC’s calendar year 2018 Work Plan and Budget.

BACKGROUND

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) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning activities in the three county region of Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties. The UPWP is prepared and transportation planning activities are performed in response to the requirements of all MPOs in federal regulations; United States Code (USC) Titles 23 and 49. RTC’s draft FY 2019 UPWP (attached) covers a one year period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The UPWP is consistent with RTC’s calendar year 2018 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the RTC Board in December 2017 (RTC Board Resolution 12-17-22). The FY 2019 UPWP extends the Work Plan’s timeframe by six months. In addition to describing upcoming transportation planning activities, the UPWP also details the funding sources required to carry out the program and addresses the major transportation policy issues of the upcoming year. This month’s agenda item provides RTC Board members an opportunity to review the draft FY 2019 UPWP.

UPWP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The FY 2019 UPWP builds upon RTC’s CY 2018 Work Program, continues core work program elements and reflects planning emphasis areas. Guidance on development of the UPWP is provided to MPOs and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in a Transportation Planning Guidance document prepared jointly by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

To meet federal requirements, the UPWP must include a discussion of the planning priorities facing the MPO (see UPWP pages xv to xvii). The UPWP is developed by the RTC in

cooperation with the state Department of Transportation and transit operators. Members of RTC's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee also help to develop the draft UPWP.

FY 2019 UPWP FEDERAL, STATE and LOCAL PLANNING EMPHASIS AREAS

The UPWP is expected to implement federal and state transportation Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) as identified by the FHWA, the FTA, and WSDOT as well as emphasize local transportation planning priorities. The federal, state and local emphasis areas are described in detail on pages x through xiv of RTC's draft FY 2019 UPWP.

Federal Emphasis Areas:

Specific federal emphasis areas for FY 2019 are largely unchanged from FY 2018 and include FAST Act implementation with continued transition to performance based planning and programming as outlined in the prior federal transportation act, MAP-21. Other federal emphasis areas are regional planning cooperation to ensure cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and "ladders of opportunity" to address transportation connectivity gaps which may hamper access to essential services.

Federal emphasis continues to be on the MPO's compliance with the federal transportation act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the FAST Act, 2015), and continued implementation of a metropolitan transportation planning program that meets the requirements of U.S. 23CFR 450.308 and 23CFR 420.111. This includes addressing the federal transportation planning factors outlined on pages xii to xiii of RTC's draft FY 2019 UPWP.

State and Federal Emphasis Areas:

Both state and federal emphasis areas for FY 2019 include tribal coordination and consultation, annual reporting on the MPO/RTPO transportation planning activities, work to ensure interlocal agreements are in place and updated as necessary, performance measures and target setting.

State Emphasis Areas:

State emphasis areas include coordination of MPO/RTPO planning with statewide planning efforts including modal plans and the statewide long-range transportation plan; the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). In addition, the MPO/RTPO will continue to work jointly with WSDOT in using the state route corridor sketches to inform future investment decisions.

Local Emphasis Areas:

Local Emphasis Areas in FY 2019 will include work activities as outlined in the CY 2018 Work Plan and Budget adopted in December 2017. Fundamental metropolitan transportation planning program activities will include adopting the 2018 update to the Clark County Regional Transportation Plan, developing the region's Transportation Improvement Program and project grant request coordination. Work will continue on the transportation system's Congestion Management Process, intelligent transportation system management program, data collection and analysis, travel model forecasting and project coordination, as well as Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning in Klickitat and Skamania counties. RTC will also work to

respond to recommendations of the FHWA/FTA subsequent to the January 2017 MPO Certification Review. Additional Emphasis Areas for YR 2018 and continuing into FY 2019 include: the Urban Freeway Corridors Operations Study which is a Clark regional urban freeway operations study emerging from the recommendations of the 2016 Congestion Management Process report, update to the Human Services Transportation Plan, continuation of the VAST program with an update to the regional Intelligent Transportation System architecture and network as well as addressing emerging policy and investment needs to support connected and autonomous vehicles, implementation of an ADA facility and program audit for RTC facilities and programs and continuation of technical support to planning partners. RTC will also be providing technical support for C-TRAN's Mill Plain Boulevard BRT evaluation, the Hood River Bridge Replacement Environmental Studies and Permitting Assistance and any traffic modeling technical review emerging from ODOT's consideration of value pricing.

FY 2019 UPWP FORMAT & BUDGET

As in previous years, the draft UPWP has four major areas: (1) Regional Transportation Planning Program, (2) Data Management and Travel Forecasting Process, (3) Transportation Program Coordination and Management, and (4) Transportation Planning Activities of State and Local Agencies. Each section includes work elements that document the anticipated transportation planning activities to be carried out in FY 2019.

To meet federal requirements for Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), such as Clark County, the UPWP must include a discussion of the planning priorities in the metropolitan planning area and describe all metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality planning activities (including corridor and subarea studies) anticipated within the area, regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting the activities.

To carry out the metropolitan transportation planning program required of MPOs and state RTPOs, FHWA and FTA grant federal funds and the state grants state planning funds. The table below presents WSDOT funding estimates for allocated federal PL and FTA funding and an estimate of state Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) funds RTC may receive to carry out the FY 2019 regional transportation planning program. The distribution of these estimated revenues to work elements is summarized on the final page (page 58) of RTC's draft FY 2019 UPWP.

FY 2019 Estimated Annual MPO Funding:

FHWA PL	\$600,659
FTA Section 5303	\$189,450
RTPO Planning	\$171,000

UPWP REVIEW

After a first draft UPWP was developed by RTC and planning partners in early 2018, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed the early draft at its January 19 meeting prior to RTC's review meeting with FHWA, FTA and WSDOT Headquarter staff held

on March 8. RTC received minor comments from WSDOT and FHWA/FTA resulting from the March review meeting and their comments have been incorporated into the proposed UPWP.

Bi-State UPWP Review

The Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area is served by two MPOs. In a bi-state region, the MPOs must cooperate and coordinate in development and adoption of the UPWP. RTC and Metro staff participate in the Federal and State UPWP review meetings held at both MPOs; Metro's review meeting held on January 25 and RTC's on March 8. RTC's draft UPWP is made available for review by Metro's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). JPACT and the Metro Council takes action to adopt Metro's own UPWP and endorse RTC's. Likewise, Metro's draft UPWP is reviewed by RTC's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the RTC Board is asked to endorse Metro's UPWP as part of the adoption process for RTC's UPWP. Metro's draft 2018-2019 UPWP is attached for review.

NEXT STEPS

Following the April 3 RTC Board meeting, the draft FY 2019 UPWP will be available on RTC's website for comment. RTAC will be asked to recommend action on the FY 2019 UPWP at its April 20 meeting. The FY 2019 UPWP will be scheduled for RTC Board approval at the May 1 Board meeting, including endorsement of Metro's 2018-2019 UPWP consistent with applicable requirements and schedules. This timeline would meet the federal and WSDOT-required timeline to have UPWPs submitted by June 18 with FHWA and FTA approval by June 30 thus allowing the UPWP to take effect on July 1, 2018.

Attachments: RTC's FY 2018 UPWP – DRAFT

Metro's FY 2018-2019 UPWP - DRAFT