



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*  
**DATE:** August 28, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** 2022 Regional Grant Program - Project Evaluation and Prioritization

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### ***ATA GLANCE***

*The action requested is Accept the evaluation and ranking of federal project grant submittals as recommended by RTAC. The project evaluation and ranking process is the basis for project selection and programming of estimated 2022 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The final action on the selection and programming of projects will occur at the October 2, 2018 RTC Board meeting.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Clark County region, RTC is responsible for selecting projects for the regional allocation of federal highway funds. This includes the regional allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Federal regulations require that a competitive project selection process be conducted for the distribution of regional federal funds. Federal regulations specifically exclude the allocation of funds to a jurisdiction or by mode.

The overall goal of the Regional Grant Program is to assist local agencies in implementing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by providing funding for regional transportation improvements. The RTC Board approved the current Regional Grant Program procedures as part of the Transportation Programming Guidebook.

Projects selected by the RTC Board this year will be combined with projects selected in previous years and through other selection processes to form the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RTC Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt the 2019-2022 TIP at their October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

This memorandum will describe RTC's Regional Grant Program and seek acceptance of the current evaluation results. The current project ranking will become the basis for the awarding of 2022 regionally allocated federal highway funds. The attached evaluation results were endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at their August 17, 2018 meeting.

### **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING GUIDEBOOK**

The Guidebook is intended to be a resource document for RTC's member agencies and their staff. The Guidebook brings the overall regional Transportation Improvement Program and regional grant process into one document. The Guidebook outlines the Regional Grant Program process and procedures.

As outlined in the Transportation Programming Guidebook, the Regional Grant Program includes the following three steps:

1. Project Screening
2. Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria
3. Project Selection and Programming

## **2022 REGIONAL GRANT REQUEST**

Based on needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), individual public agencies choose priority projects for consideration in the Regional Grant Program. In total, there were 11 projects submitted to RTC from member agencies. The current project proposals are seeking funding in year 2022. The following are proposed project descriptions:

**Battle Ground - SE Grace Avenue Phase 2 Improvements** (*Rasmussen to Main*): Realign and widen to three lane facility, add sidewalks, storm drainage, striping, lighting, landscaping, and bike facilities. Make some sewer and water improvements. Add traffic signal at realigned Main and Grace intersection.

**C-TRAN – Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit**: This project constructs transit improvements needed to provide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along Mill Plain Blvd. Improvements primarily include, but are not limited to, the construction of BRT bus stations.

**Clark County - NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue** (*NE 179<sup>th</sup> St. to NE 10<sup>th</sup> Av.*): Construct a new 3-lane urban minor arterial with bike lanes and sidewalk. Replace stormwater facility.

**Clark County – Orchards Sifton Adaptive Signals**: This project will install adaptive modules and video system to improve system performance NE 76<sup>th</sup> and NE 99<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**Clark County – NE 99<sup>th</sup> Street** (*NE 94<sup>th</sup> Av. to NE 117<sup>th</sup> Av.*): Construct new principal arterial to 3-lane urban stands with bike lanes and sidewalk.

**RTC – Strategic Regional Partnership Planning**: Is a multi-agency initiative, managed by RTC, which provides regional funding to carry-out regional transportation planning and project development studies.

**RTC – Unified Planning Work Program and Congestion Management Process**: Provide financial support for federally-required planning activities documented in RTC's UPWP.

**RTC – Vancouver Area Smart Trek (VAST) Program Coordination and Management**: Provide support to partner agencies on transportation operations and ITS projects.

**Vancouver – NE 137th Ave Corridor Completion** (*NE 49<sup>th</sup> Street to Fourth Plain*): Widen to 3 lanes with roundabouts, bike lanes, sidewalks, and fiber.

**Washougal – Traveler Information Sign Project**: Install active traveler information sign on SR-14 to improve safety and reduce queuing when a train is blocking the at-grade railroad crossing at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**WSDOT – I-205 SB @ SR-500 Ramp Meter**: Install adaptive ramp meters on the I-205 southbound on-ramp from SR-500.

## PROJECT SCREENING

In the Project Screening step, projects are reviewed for consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria. All submitted projects are considered eligible to compete for federal funding. Although, a few minor corrections were made to applications to maintain consistency with regional plans.

## EVALUATION AND RANKING BY SELECTION CRITERIA

RTC staff evaluated projects per the approved regional selection criteria. Projects eligible for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding are evaluated by the same criteria as Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) projects but the air quality points are tripled.

Following RTC Staff evaluation, local agency staffs were provided an opportunity to review the accuracy of evaluation. Based on the final technical evaluation, RTAC has recommended that the following evaluation and ranking of projects, by funding programs, be approved by the RTC Board. Shaded project are below the cut line for funding.

### Proposed 2022 CMAQ Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Score
1	C-TRAN	Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit	109
2	WSDOT	I-205 SB @ SR-500 Ramp Meter	83
3	Clark County	Orchards Sifton Adaptive Signals	82
4	Washougal	Traveler Information Sign Project	54

### Proposed 2022 STBG Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Score
1	Multi-Agency	Strategic Regional Partnership Planning	N/A
1	RTC	UPWP & CMP	N/A
1	RTC	VAST Coordination	N/A
4	Vancouver	NE 137th Avenue Corridor Completion	91
5	C-TRAN	Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit	83
6	Battle Ground	SE Grace Avenue Phase II, Main to Rasmussen	80
7	Clark County	NE 99th Street, 94th Av. to 117th Av.	78
8	Clark County	NE 15th Av., NE 179th St. to 10th Av.	71
9	WSDOT	I-205 SB @ SR-500 Ramp Meter	69
10	Clark County	Orchards Sifton Adaptive Signals	68
11	Washougal	Traveler Information Sign Project	50

## PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMING

The final step for completing the Regional Grant Program process is the selection and programming of projects. At their September meeting, RTAC will be asked to make their technical recommendation, based on the evaluation and ranking of projects, which will then be brought to the October RTC Board of Directors meeting for the Board's consideration and

action. This final step will conclude the regional project selection process and provide for the flow of federal transportation funds toward regional project implementation.

**ACTION**

RTC Board action is requested to accept the evaluation and ranking of federal project grant submittals as recommended by RTAC. Upon acceptance, the results will be applied to the final selection and programming recommendations to be presented at the October 2018 Board meeting.