



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: September 25, 2018
SUBJECT: **2022 Regional Competitive Grant Awards, Resolution 10-18-21**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The action requested is to select the year 2022 regional competitive grant awards for federal STBG and CMAQ funds. The recommended action was endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at their monthly meeting on September 21, 2018. Awarding grant funds to priority regional projects will provide approximately \$7.6 million in federal highway funds for implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan. The selected projects will be incorporated into the 2019-2022 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 Block Grant (STBG) 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 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 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 4, 2018 meeting completed the first two steps, via their acceptance with the ranking of projects. Adoption of this resolution and the 2019-2022

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will complete the final step. RTAC at their September meeting recommended that the RTC Board of Directors select the STBG and CMAQ grant awards recommended in this resolution.

REGIONAL PROJECT SELECTION

The regional 2022 grant award is completed by matching the project ranking to the available funding levels. Based on the project evaluation and ranking step, RTAC is recommending that the following projects be selected for either STBG or CMAQ grant awards and programmed in the 2019-2022 TIP:

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 award is recommended for funding:

Proposed CMAQ Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Score	Phase	Year	Award	Total
1	C-TRAN	Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit	103	CN	2022	\$2,000,000	\$21,025,000
						\$2,000,000	\$21,025,000

Surface Transportation Block Grant

The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) 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. The following STBG-Urban grant awards are recommended for funding:

Proposed STBG-Urban Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Score	Phase	Year	Award	Total
1	RTC	Strategic Regional Partnership Planning	N/A	PE	2022	\$400,000	\$462,500
1	RTC	UPWP & CMP Support	N/A	PE	2022	\$475,000	\$549,133
1	RTC	VAST Coordination and Management	N/A	PE	2022	\$350,000	\$405,000
4	Vancouver	NE 137th Avenue, 49th St. to Fourth Plain	91	CN	2022	\$1,950,000	\$16,500,000
5	C-TRAN	Mill Plain Bus Rapid Transit	83	CN	2022	\$1,000,000	\$21,025,000
6	Battle Ground	SE Grace Avenue, Main to Rasmussen	80	RW	2022	\$400,000	\$2,305,000
7	Clark County	NE 99th St., 94th Av. to 117th Av.	78	CN	2022	\$1,000,000	\$13,300,000
						\$5,575,000	\$54,546,633

POLICY IMPLICATION

The 2022 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.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed the DRAFT 2022 Regional Competitive Grant Awards at their September 21, 2018 meeting and recommended RTC Board approval.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Action on this resolution will select and program approximately \$7.6 million in federal funds to enhance the regional transportation system in Clark County.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 10-18-21 “2022 Regional Competitive Grant Awards.”

ADOPTED this 2nd day of October 2018, by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Ron Onslow
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director