



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: October 30, 2018
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan for Skamania County Washington,
Resolution 11-18-25**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

This resolution adopts the Regional Transportation Plan for Skamania County. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-range transportation planning document for Skamania County and is prepared in conformance with Chapter 47.80.030 RCW. The RTP is updated to extend the plan horizon year to 2040, update the financial forecast, and to align with current regulations. This RTP represents the Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee's collective strategy for developing a regional transportation system that provides opportunities for efficient and safe travel, goods movement, and countywide economic development.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-range transportation plan for Skamania County. As the designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the RTC has completed the RTP update in consultation with the Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee (Committee) and in conformance with state planning requirements (Chapter 47.80.030 RCW).

The RTP has a planning horizon of year 2040. State law (Chapter 47.80 RCW) requires that the RTP be updated periodically to keep the project list and financial forecast up to date. The last update for this plan occurred in year 2014. The specific purposes for updating the RTP include: updating the population, employment, and demographic forecasts; updating the plan horizon year to 2040; updating the project list and conceptual implementation schedule; updating of the financial forecast; and to keep current with regulations.

The RTP identifies future travel trends and needs, recommends policies/strategies, identifies projects to meet future needs, and outlines future funding assumptions and conceptual implementation schedule. The RTP in turn is used to help formulate the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and become the framework for continuing the cooperative process for identifying needs and solutions to the regional transportation system. Individual agencies will pursue project implementation according to their schedules and funding availability, and the RTC will assist in coordinating planning research and project specific grant programs and funding strategy as part of the Committee process.

The key issues presented in the RTP are the need to maintain and preserve the existing system, improve safety, and support economic development. Future financial constraints is also a major theme affecting the region, as the RTP demonstrates that project needs exceed anticipated revenue. Skamania County is experiencing steady economic development within the Columbia River Gorge communities and the Port, and the influx of business and residents, combined with the seasonal recreational visitors continues to create corridor specific transportation constraints. Local funding for system maintenance and improvements continues to lag behind the required needs, and local agencies are constrained in their ability to improve their respective networks. Continued emphasis on basic maintenance and access improvements is a priority, combined with select major improvements in support of economic development initiatives.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

During the past year, the RTP was developed with technical review and policy input provided by the Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee. The Committee reviewed the assumptions and inputs of the RTP and helped craft the project priority list. RTC Board action on this Resolution will complete the state-required RTP update process. The adopted RTP will be forwarded to WSDOT and added to the RTC Website.

Precedent Action: The Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee recommended approval of the Plan at their October 3, 2018 meeting, and referred it to the RTC Board of Directors for final action.

POLICY IMPLICATION

The Regional Transportation Plan for Skamania County represents the 20-year plan for development of the regional transportation system. Adoption of this RTP completes the Regional Transportation Planning Organization requirement to develop and maintain regional transportation plans for the RTPO region. Agencies within the County will incorporate elements of this plan or adopt by reference in accordance with their planning regulations.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

None. Funding for individual projects will be the responsibility of the lead project agency and will be advanced on an individual project basis. Funding to complete the RTP update and facilitation of the Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee is provided for in the RTC work program and annual budget. The primary sources of funding to complete this work are from the state RTPO planning funding and Member agency annual dues.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 11-18-25 “Regional Transportation Plan for Skamania County Washington.”

ADOPTED this 6th day of November 2018, by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Ron Onslow
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director