



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: November 27, 2018
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County –DRAFT Plan**

AT A GLANCE - Discussion

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is being updated in 2018/19 to comply with federal requirements and to ensure continued consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans. The December presentation will focus on the overall RTP draft to be released for public comment in anticipation of a March 2019 RTP adoption.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is the long-range regional transportation plan. At the December RTC Board meeting, the Board will review the draft of the 2018-2040 RTP update prior to release for an extended public comment period. The draft RTP will be available for public comment from early December through March 4, 2019. **The RTP update draft chapters will be available for review after Wednesday, November 28th at the following web address:**

<http://www.rtc.wa.gov/packets/board/2018/12/201812-07-B-DraftRTPChapters.zip>

The focus of the presentation at the December meeting will be to review the work undertaken in 2017 and 2018 to update the RTP (see attached RTP Development Process). Staff will review the RTP's identified projects, transportation modes, and strategies to meet travel demand as well as the application of the financial constraint test for RTP projects that are part of the Designated Regional Transportation System and on the need to look forward to continuing Plan monitoring activities.

Over the past 18 months, the RTC Board has considered elements of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County that are to be updated with adoption of the 2040 RTP. Federal rules require regular Plan update to ensure the region's continuing receipt of federal transportation dollars. The 2018/19 update to the RTP is needed to continue to fulfill requirements of the current federal transportation act, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), and to maintain consistency between state, regional, and local plans.

Since the existing Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was adopted in December 2014, there have been a number of changes that need to be reflected in an updated RTP. These changes include passage of the FAST Act (2015) with continued movement toward performance based planning and programming through performance measures and target setting, the publishing of

Washington Office of Financial Management’s (OFM’s) 2017 update to the population forecasts for counties in Washington State, and updated growth forecasts and land use allocations of demographics resulting from the update to Clark County’s Comprehensive Plan adopted in June 2016. In addition, there have been updates to numerous state transportation plans that need to be reflected in the RTP update.

The 2018/19 update to the RTP uses 2040 as the horizon year and is based on land uses and demographic growth allocations resulting from the June 2016 update to local Comprehensive Plans. The RTP also includes updated transportation data and recommendations from recent state and regional transportation studies. The RTP update process is consistent with the federal metropolitan transportation planning process best practices and is designed to be a plan to meet Clark County’s regional transportation needs over the next 20 plus years.

To recap the RTP development process, the table below provides an overview of Plan elements that have been reviewed during 2017/18 and the months when each element has been a part of the Board’s agenda.

RTP Elements: 2018 RTP Update

RTP Elements	Discussed at 2017/18 RTC Board Meetings:
• RTP Preliminary Scoping	April 2017
• RTP Population and Employment Forecast	September 2017
• Growth and Demographic Analysis	October 2017
• Policy Framework	February 2018
• Existing Conditions	February 2018
• RTP Identified Projects	May and October 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Research: Environmental Justice Policy Review Synthesizing Public Opinions on Transportation Issues and Needs 	May 2018
• Preliminary Review of Finance Plan	June 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Performance: including Transportation System Needs, Projects, Strategies, and Regional Travel Forecasting Model Analysis and Results <i>- see RTP Appendix B; 2035 RTP List of RTP and Local Projects</i> 	August 2018
• Public Outreach	August 2018

• RTP Finance Plan	October 2018
• RTP Draft Plan	November 2018

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Throughout the RTP update process, which began in early 2017, the public has been encouraged to participate. RTP information and RTC Board materials on the RTP update were made available on RTC’s website both in RTC Board agenda packets and on the [RTP update web page](#). The public has been able to provide RTP comments via the RTC website, e-mail, phone or mail.

RTC has sent notices of the RTP’s development and public outreach opportunities to Clark County and Vancouver neighborhood coordinators and keeps small cities informed through the respective Regional Transportation Advisory Committee representatives. RTC staff has also been providing outreach to community groups with presentations and/or RTP materials provided to stakeholder groups such as Vancouver’s Neighborhood Transportation Safety Alliance, the League of Women Voters, Southwest Washington Healthy Living Collaborative, Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Columbia River Economic Development Council, Identity Clark County, and Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative.

In 2018, RTC and the Washington State Transportation Commission co-hosted a September 10 Transportation Open House at the Downtown Vancouver Public Library with information available on the RTP update and the Washington Transportation Plan update. RTC and the Transportation Commission were joined at the event by planning partners including WSDOT, C-TRAN, Clark County, City of Vancouver, City of Battle Ground and the Human Services Council.

The RTP update process requires at least a thirty day public comment period. This RTP update will allow for an extended formal public comment period beginning in December and running through January. Staff will return with a status report at the February 5, meeting. Final RTP adoption is anticipated at the March 5, 2019 RTC Board meeting. During the public review period, an information and public opinion survey will be fielded through use of the MetroQuest software tool, as one method of broad public engagement and awareness. RTC staff are available to attend RTC member agency council and commission meetings to present a final RTP report and to review the strategic investments needed and issues facing this region over the forecast planning horizon.

NEXT STEPS

Staff seeks RTC Board concurrence to release the Draft RTP for a public comment and review period following the December 4 Board meeting. The Draft RTP document will be made available on RTC’s web site for review through Plan adoption. The RTC Board will be presented a final RTP update for adoption at the March 5, 2019 Board meeting.

Attachments: RTP Development Process graphic

THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: RTP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION

RTP Update Developed: Years 2017-2018

2018 RTP Implementation: Years 2019 - 2023

