



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*  
**DATE:** January 29, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** **Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County –DRAFT Final Report**

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***AT A GLANCE - Discussion***

*The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County should be updated in 2019 to keep the Plan in conformance with federal requirements and to ensure continued consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans. Development of the current Plan update has been ongoing since year 2017. The February meeting provides the opportunity for Board and public review in advance of the planned March 2019 Plan adoption meeting.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is the long-range regional transportation plan with a planning horizon of twenty plus years. The proposed RTP has a horizon year of 2040 and is prepared and periodically updated as part of the required federal and state transportation planning process. The RTP represents the region’s collective strategy for investing in transportation system improvements and programs which provide person mobility and accessibility as well as a functional system for freight and goods movement.

The focus of the February RTP briefing is to provide a review of work undertaken from 2017 and into 2019 (see attached RTP Development Process) and a draft final review of the RTP document. The draft RTP is available electronically at:

<https://www.rtc.wa.gov/packet/board/2019/02/201902-08-B-RTPreport.pdf>

Copies will be available for Board members at the February 5 meeting.

**RTP UPDATE: PROCESS and ELEMENTS**

Work undertaken in 2017, 2018 and 2019 is summarized in the attached RTP Development Process. In summary, the RTP development process has identified investment projects, transportation programs, and strategies which serve to respond to forecast community growth and circulation demands. The Plan meets the financial constraint test for RTP projects that are part of the Designated Regional Transportation System. After RTP adoption, RTC and local agencies will continue Plan implementation and monitoring activities.

Beginning with briefings in April 2017, 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 2019 update to the RTP is required to comply with 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 are now reflected in the draft updated RTP. These changes include:

- Passage of the new federal transportation act; the FAST Act (2015)
- Movement toward performance based planning and programming through performance measures and target setting initiated with passage of MAP-21 in 2012
- Publishing of Washington Office of Financial Management’s (OFM’s) 2017 update to the population forecasts for counties in Washington State
- Updated growth forecasts and land use allocations of demographics resulting from the update to Clark County’s Comprehensive Plan (adopted June 2016)
- Updates to numerous state transportation plans that are reflected in the draft RTP update
- Emergence of new technologies that will impact transportation into the future

The 2019 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: 2018/19 RTP Update**

<b>RTP Elements</b>	<b>Discussed at 2017/18 RTC Board Meetings:</b>
• 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
• Student Research:	May 2018

<b>RTP Elements</b>	<b>Discussed at 2017/18 RTC Board Meetings:</b>
Environmental Justice Policy Review Synthesizing Public Opinions on Transportation Issues and Needs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Review of Finance Plan</li> </ul>	June 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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></li> </ul>	August 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Outreach</li> </ul>	August 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Finance Plan</li> </ul>	October 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Draft Plan</li> </ul>	November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Draft Plan and Release for Public Comment</li> </ul>	December 2018

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS**

### **Draft RTP: Release for Public Comment:**

The RTP update process requires at least a thirty day formal public comment period. This RTP update process has allowed for an extended public comment period beginning in December 2018 and running through February 25, 2019. At the December 4, 2018 RTC Board meeting, RTC staff sought RTC Board concurrence to release the Draft RTP update for a public comment and review period.

Following RTC Board agreement to release the draft RTP for public comment, the draft RTP document has been made available for public review and comment on RTC’s website at <https://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/rtp/clark/update/>. RTC invites comments on the draft RTP to be made through February 25, 2019 to allow staff to disburse public comments and to include a report on these comments to be presented to the RTC Board along with the draft RTP.

### **Public Outreach During Development of the RTP Update:**

Throughout the RTP update process, 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.

**SEPA Documentation Issued:**

A SEPA checklist and Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued for the Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County update in late January 2019. The SEPA documentation was circulated and made available on Washington Department of Ecology’s SEPA Register allowing consultation resource agencies, tribes and interested parties to access the draft RTP.

**Final Steps Toward RTC Board Adoption and RTP Implementation:**

Final RTP adoption is anticipated at the March 5, 2019 RTC Board meeting. In February, RTC will conduct a media campaign and field a public information and opinion survey on the draft RTP. 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 transportation issues facing this region over the forecast planning horizon.

**NEXT STEPS**

After conclusion of the public comment period, the RTC Board will be presented a final RTP update for adoption at the March 5, 2019 Board meeting.

**Attachments:** RTP Development Process graphic  
DRAFT, Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County

# THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: RTP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION

## RTP Update Developed: Years 2017-2018

## 2018 RTP Implementation: Years 2019 - 2023

