



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** March 5, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** State Legislative Session Update

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***AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION***

*The purpose of this memorandum is to keep the RTC Board apprised of proposed state legislation.*

**BACKGROUND**

The Washington State Legislature convened for its 2019 session on January 14 and is scheduled to complete its full session on April 28. At the outset of the legislative session, RTC staff began tracking bills that would revise laws that govern transportation funding, planning, and RTC operations.

In addition to monitoring proposed legislation, staff are also assisting Legislators and RTC Member agency staff (and their lobbyists) by providing current information in regards to RTC plans and recommended projects through the Board endorsed Regional Transportation Plan (2014) and current Clark County Transportation Alliance 2019-2020 Legislative Policy Statement.

**NEW LAW TRANSPORTION FUNDING AND PROJECT LIST**

The Senate Transportation Committee held a formal public hearing on SB 5971 and SB 5972 which would implement a New Law Transportation Funding Revenue Program and Project List. In early February, a contingent of leaders from Clark County agencies attended and presented comments at the preliminary hearing. Since then, the proposal was modestly refined, but the key elements of the proposal remain the same. RTC made public comments in support of the overall program and project list at the February 28 public hearing (comment letter attached).

Specific to SB 5972, the New Law (NL) Project List includes several key projects that are of significance to the RTC region. The List includes dedicated funding for the RTC regions two Columbia River bridge projects: I-5 Bridge Replacement; and Columbia River Bridge Replacement/Hood River to White Salmon. These two bridge replacement projects are RTC regional project priorities, as expressed in the agency’s current Regional Transportation Plans (Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County, 2014 and Regional Transportation Plan for Klickitat County, 2018). The Project List includes several other significant program enhancements covering a range of maintenance and environmental compliance programs administered by WSDOT and expansions of many statewide competitive grant programs that are valuable to local government and transit agencies, including a dedicated Port facility grant program.

**BILL STATUS**

As of this report, RTC staff have been monitoring these bills as summarized below. You can access the Bill page by clicking the Bill # hyperlink:

Bill #	Summary	Perceived Impact	Status
<a href="#">SB 5971</a> <a href="#">SB 5972</a>	Establishes a New Law transportation revenue program and dedicated project list. The revenue program would raise over \$16 Billion in new funding. The Project list would be dedicated project and expanded programs, affecting state, local governments, transit agencies, Port districts and affiliated agencies. The program is referred to as: "Forward WA"	<p><b>RTP Implementation:</b> this New Law program would fund several priority projects in the RTC region, including: I-5 Bridge Replacement; White Salmon-Hood River bridge replacement. The program would also expand major statewide grant programs, including distributions to local governments, and creation of a port facility grant.  <i>(New Law proposed project and program list attached)</i></p> <p>RTC provided testimony at the January pre-hearing and comments in support at the February 28 formal public hearing. <i>(comment letter attached)</i></p>	<p><b>Senate:</b>                      Preliminary public hearing held 1-24</p> <p>Formal Public hearing held on 2-28.</p>
<a href="#">SSB 5847</a> <a href="#">SHB 1994</a>	Implements a new program for designation of Transportation Projects of Statewide Significance	<p><b>RTP Implementation:</b> A new Project of Statewide Significance designation may help streamline state permitting and speed for designated projects. It is possible that the I-5 Bridge replacement and the White Salmon- Hood River bridge replacement projects could benefit from such a designation.</p> <p>RTC provided a letter of comment and support for both House and Senate committee public hearings. <i>(comment letter attached)</i></p>	<p><b>Senate &amp; House:</b>  <i>Cleared Transportation Committees, referred to Rules</i></p>

<p><a href="#">SB 5214</a> <a href="#">HB 1160</a></p>	<p>19-20 Biennium budget appropriations bill for WSDOT, and local and regional programs.</p>	<p>- <b>RTP Implementation:</b> \$17.5 M listed for opening a project office for I-5 Bridge replacement project. - <b>RTC Agency:</b> \$1 M statewide increase to RTPO program funding. RTC would receive a portion of this funding addition for operations (based on a statewide formula).</p> <p>RTC provided written letter of comment and support via email for the House committee hearing.</p>	<p><b>House:</b> <i>Held Committee Hearing; 1-31</i></p> <p><b>Senate:</b> <i>No hearings yet</i></p>
<p><a href="#">SHB 1584</a> <a href="#">SB 5778</a></p>	<p>Would establish new laws affecting RTPO's and tribal consultation requirements.</p>	<p>- <b>RTC agency:</b> Would add a requirement that RTPO's covering certain tribal nation lands provide an opportunity for Policy Board voting participation of eligible tribes. Could require RTC to modify Board structure to accommodate.</p> <p>RTC provided written comments to Representative Wylie in advance of House committee public hearing. Additional consultations have occurred regarding potential impacts and potential resolutions.</p>	<p><b>House:</b> <i>Passed out of Transportation Committee</i></p> <p><b>Senate:</b> <i>No hearings yet</i></p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1835</a></p>	<p>Would direct to the Joint Transportation Committee to commission a study to define a new bridge crossing of the Columbia River west of I-5.</p>	<p><b>RTC Region:</b> Current regional transportation and growth management plans do not contemplate a new bridge crossing of the Columbia River, within the Vancouver UGA. Growth Management Plan review may be needed by affected agencies.</p>	<p>DIED in Committee.</p>

## **OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSSION REPORT**

The Oregon Legislature convened on January 22 for their annual legislative session. As of this report, RTC is monitoring various bills, none of which have an immediate and direct impact of RTC region policy or practices. RTC Staff will report on monitoring activities at the Board meeting.

## **NEXT STEPS**

RTC staff will continue to monitor proposed bills which are currently or may be introduced during this legislative session. In addition to monitoring, RTC staff will provide information and input to the Board, Legislators, and RTC Member agency staff as requested.

### Attachments:

SB 5972 Project and Program List

Letter of comment for SB 5971 and SB 5972

Letter of comment for HB 1994 and SB 5847

**LEAP Transportation Document 2019 NL-1 as developed February 11, 2019**  
**Forward Washington Projects**  
 \$ Thousands

	Project Title	Leg Dist	Fund	Total
	<b>Highway Improvements Program (I) Total</b>			<b>11,636,100</b>
1	I-5 Bridge Replacement	49	FWA/Fed/Toll/Other	3,175,000
2	SR 18 Widening – Issaquah/Hobart Rd to Raging River	5	FWA	285,000
3	SR 9 Widening – 176th St SE to SR 96	1, 44	FWA	58,200
4	SR 522 Widening	1	FWA	90,000
5	SR 522 Paradise Lake Road Interchange	1	FWA	70,000
6	Apple Capital Loop/Wenatchee Triangle Project	12	FWA	169,000
7	Watershed Fish Passage Barrier Removal	Multiple	FWA	3,500,000
8	Stormwater Retrofits & Improvements	Multiple	FWA	500,000
9	US 2 Monroe Bypass and Widening	39	FWA	56,000
10	SR 410/White River Bridge	31	FWA	45,000
11	Columbia River Bridge Replacement/Hood River to White Salmon	14	FWA/Toll/Other	300,000
12	SR 520 Noise Mitigation	43, 48	FWA	2,000
13	I-5/US 101 South Sound Corridor Study	28, 22, 2, 35	FWA	7,000
14	SR 125/State Line to Walla Walla - Intersection Improvements	16	FWA	16,500
15	I-90/Kittitas to Vantage - Wildlife Fence	13	FWA	10,500
16	US 12/Naches to Yakima - Safety Improvements	14, 15	FWA	2,500
17	US 12 Ackley Road Intersection Safety Improvements	14, 15	FWA	1,500
18	US 12 Cowiche Creek Bridge Replacement	14, 15	FWA	17,000
19	SR 410 Rock Creek Chronic Environmental Deficiency	14	FWA	6,000
20	US 97 Union Gap - Construct Beltway Connection	15	FWA	10,000
21	US 12 East of White Pass - Add Passing Lanes	14	FWA	6,000
22	SR 99/Aurora Avenue Bridge Safety Improvements	36, 43	FWA	29,000
23	I-5/JBLM HOV Improvements	27, 28, 29	FWA	350,000
24	US 2 Trestle Full Rebuild	38, 44	FWA/Toll/Other	1,490,000
25	I-405/SR 522 to SR 527 Capacity Improvements (Phase 1)	1	Toll	470,000
26	SR 167 HOT/HOV Lane Extensions	30, 31	Toll	20,000
27	I-405/NE 8th St Renton Interchange	11, 37	FWA/Toll	250,000
28	US 395/Eitopia Interchange	9	FWA	17,600
29	US 395/Foster Wells Road Interchange	9, 16	FWA	16,700
30	US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill Widening	16	FWA	182,000
31	SR 3/Belfair Area - Widening and Safety Improvements (Phase 2)	35	FWA	35,000
32	US 101 Shelton Centerline Safety	35	FWA	4,000
33	SR 3/SR 16 Intersection Improvements	26, 35	FWA	35,000
34	SR 3/Gorst Area - Widening	35, 26	FWA	300,000
35	SR 6/Pluvius Bridge	19	FWA	15,000
36	SR 516/185th to 192nd Widening (Design and Right of Way)	47	FWA	2,000
37	SR 18 Corridor Study	47	FWA	1,000
38	SR 16 Gig Harbor Congestion Improvements	26	FWA	1,900
39	SR 16/SR 160 Roundabouts	26	FWA	6,000
40	SR 162/SR 410 Corridor Improvements	25	FWA	30,000
41	I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvements	25	FWA	20,000
42	SR 109/Moclips River Bridge Replacement	24	FWA	7,000
43	US 101/Simdars Rd Interchange	24	FWA	7,000
44	US 101 Climbing Lanes	24	FWA	6,500
45	SR 105 Culvert and Drainage Improvements	19	FWA	1,100
46	SR 530/Chief Brown Lane Safety Improvements	39	FWA	12,100

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Leg Dist</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Highway Preservation Program (P) Total</b>			<b>1,000,000</b>
47	Highway Preservation	Multiple	FWA	869,000
48	I-90/RR, Broadway, Park Rd Crossings - Expansion Joint Repair	4	FWA	1,800
49	SR 206/Bruce Rd to Mt Spokane State Park - Chip Seal	4	FWA	1,400
50	SR 27/Freeman to 32nd Ave - Chip Seal	4	FWA	700
51	US 197/The Dalles Bridge Deck Replacement	14	FWA	11,800
52	US 97/Satus Creek Bridge - Bridge Replacement	14	FWA	6,600
53	SR 14/0.4 Mile East of Lyle - Slope Stabilization	14	FWA	6,000
54	SR 241 Mabton Bridge Shortfall	15	FWA	2,500
55	US 12 White Pass Corridor Preservation	14, 20	FWA	80,000
56	SR 410/288th Ave Se Vic to Crystal Mountain Blvd Vic - BST	31	FWA	6,400
57	SR 162/Spiketon Creek Bridge - Bridge Replacement	31	FWA	3,700
58	SR 410/W of SR 162 on-ramp to White River Br - Paving	31	FWA	3,200
59	SR 3/Goldsborough Creek Bridge - Replace Bridge	35	FWA	3,400
60	US 101/N of Sund Creek to N of Bourgault Rd - Chip Seal	35	FWA	1,900
61	SR 106/US 101 to W of SR 3 - Chip Seal	35	FWA	1,600
	<b>Washington State Ferries Capital Program (W) Total</b>			<b>1,670,000</b>
62	Vessel & Terminal Construction/Preservation	Multiple	FWA	1,500,000
63	Vessel Electrification	Multiple	FWA	170,000
	<b>Rail Capital Program (Y) Total</b>			<b>150,000</b>
64	PCC Rail lines rebuilt to Class 2 (25mph) standard	6, 12, 13	FFA	150,000
	<b>Local Programs (Z) Total</b>			<b>217,300</b>
65	Tacoma Puyallup River Bridge	25, 27	FWA	110,000
66	224th Phase 2	47	FWA	2,000
67	Highland Park Way SW & SW Holden St Roundabout	34	FWA	2,500
68	Wollochet Dr NW Widening	26	FWA	18,000
69	Canyon Road Regional Connection Project	25	FWA	50,000
70	Moclips Highway/SR 109 to US 101 Chip Seal	24	FWA	1,200
71	Evacuation Street Relocation	24	FWA	1,300
72	Kla Ook Wa Drive Extension	24	FWA	1,700
73	US 101/N Valley Dr to N Reservation Rd Sidewalk	35	FWA	300
74	Nespelem School Loop Rd & Columbia River Rd Improvements	12	FWA	7,300
75	Gifford Ferry Rd Chip Seal	7	FWA	2,000
76	Inchelium Vicinity Road Improvements	7	FWA	2,500
77	Kartar Valley Road Improvements	12	FWA	5,000
78	Browning Street/Pioneer Way Reconstruction	25, 27	FWA	8,000
79	Puyallup to Tacoma Bike/Pedestrian Safety Link	25, 27	FWA	500
80	Sprague Avenue Phase II Improvements	3	FWA	5,000

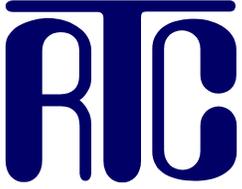
#### Notes to New-Law Transportation Project List

- 1 Aging and phasing of project delivery is subject to further negotiation.
- 2 \$1.981B toll, \$1.25B federal, and \$680M other (local or other state) revenue is included in this proposed highway improvement project list.
- 3 Fund Detail: FWA - Forward Washington Account; FFA - Forward Flex Account; Fed - federal funding assumed; Toll - unspecified toll revenue

**LEAP Transportation Document 2019 NL-2 as developed February 11, 2019**  
**Forward Washington Projects**

State \$ Millions

<b>State Expenditures (FY 2020 - FY 2029)</b>	<b>Total Funding Through 2029</b>
1 Maintenance	500
2 Facilities	20
3 Traffic Operations	50
4 Grid/Transmission Upgrades Transportation Electrification	500
5 Port Districts Grants	100
6 Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)	50
7 Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)	90
8 County Road Administration Board (CRAB)	70
9 Cities and Counties Direct Distribution	375
10 Special Needs Transit Grants	200
11 Rural Mobility Grant Program	110
12 Bus & Bus Facility Grant Program	300
13 Vanpool Grant Program	30
14 Transit Coordination Grants	5
15 Bike/Ped Grant Program	165
16 Safe Routes to School Grant Program	60
17 Complete Streets Grant Program	90
18 Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)	45
19 Alternative Fuel Credits	50
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>2,810</b>



February 28, 2019

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The Honorable Steve Hobbs, Chair  
The Honorable Rebecca Saldana, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Curtis King, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Tim Sheldon, Assistant Ranking Member  
The Honorable Annette Cleveland, 49<sup>th</sup> District  
Senate Transportation Committee Members

**Member Jurisdictions**

- Clark County
- Skamania County
- Klickitat County
- City of Vancouver
- City of Camas
- City of Washougal
- City of Battle Ground
- City of Ridgefield
- City of La Center
- Town of Yacolt
- City of Stevenson
- City of North Bonneville
- City of White Salmon
- City of Bingen
- City of Goldendale
- C-TRAN
- Washington DOT
- Port of Vancouver
- Port of Camas-Washougal
- Port of Ridgefield
- Port of Skamania County
- Port of Klickitat
- Metro
- Oregon DOT
- 14th Legislative District
- 17th Legislative District
- 18th Legislative District
- 20th Legislative District
- 49th Legislative District

*Delivered during February 28, 2019, Public Hearings*

**RE: Comments Regarding Support for SB 5971 and SB 5972**

Dear Committee Chair, Ranking Member and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the MPO/RTPO serving Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, we offer this letter of comment at the February 28 Public Hearing for SB 5971 and SB 5972.

Within the RTC region, two bi-state bridges are in need of replacement. Inventories of deferred and routine maintenance projects continue to swell. And many new investments in local programs designed to get ahead of intense growth needs remain outstanding. As the MPO/RTPO, we work with our partners to identify the most cost effective investment and outcomes within existing resources. And yet, despite strides made, we still identify a need for additional funding to construct major projects, catch up on maintenance, and accelerate needed state and local investments.

Specific to SB 5971, we are encouraged by the initiation of New Law revenue discussions. As part of our MPO/RTPO planning process, our regional plans reflect a need for new revenue to fund needed infrastructure. Our plans recognize that future revenues will likely be a combination of state gas tax and new sources combined with user fees, and that a nexus between new revenue and project improvements is an important public financing outcome. We trust the deliberative process of this committee and the Legislature in development of the funding revenues that can ultimately support this package.

Specific to SB 5972, we confirm the regional importance and planning documentation that supports these projects. We endorse the inclusion of the following projects as presented in the NL Project List:

- 1) I-5 Bridge Replacement
- 11) Columbia River Bridge Replacement/Hood River to White Salmon
- 51) US 197/The Dalles Bridge Deck Replacement
- 52) US 197/Status Creek Bridge Replacement
- 53) SR 14/0.4 Mile East of Lyle – Slope Stabilization



February 19, 2019

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**Member Jurisdictions**

- Clark County
- Skamania County
- Klickitat County
- City of Vancouver
- City of Camas
- City of Washougal
- City of Battle Ground
- City of Ridgefield
- City of La Center
- Town of Yacolt
- City of Stevenson
- City of North Bonneville
- City of White Salmon
- City of Bingen
- City of Goldendale
- C-TRAN
- Washington DOT
- Port of Vancouver
- Port of Camas-Washougal
- Port of Ridgefield
- Port of Skamania County
- Port of Klickitat
- Metro
- Oregon DOT
- 14th Legislative District
- 17th Legislative District
- 18th Legislative District
- 20th Legislative District
- 49th Legislative District

The Honorable Steve Hobbs, Chair  
 The Honorable Rebecca Saldana, Vice Chair  
 The Honorable Curtis King, Ranking Member  
 The Honorable Tim Sheldon, Assistant Ranking Member  
 The Honorable Annette Cleveland, 49<sup>th</sup> District  
 Senate Transportation Committee Members

*Delivered via email*

**RE: Comment of Support for SB 5847 – An Act Relating to Facilitating Transportation Projects of Statewide Significance**

Dear Committee Chair, Ranking Member and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the MPO/RTPO serving Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, we offer this letter of comment for support of SB 5847, an Act Relating to Facilitating Transportation Projects of Statewide Significance.

Within the RTC region, the I-5 bridges over the Columbia River need replacement. This project has been, and continues to be, the RTC region’s most significant unfunded project. The RTC Board of Directors has provided sustained support for legislative action to facilitate funding and expedited delivery of the I-5 Bridge Replacement project. As recently as March 2017, the RTC Board of Directors ratified a resolution recommending that the State of Washington designate a future I-5 Bridge Replacement project as a “Project of Statewide Significance”. (*RTC Resolution attached*)

As the MPO/RTPO serving this region, we urge strong consideration of SB 5847, which would enact new law, rulemaking and procedures which together can move this project of state significance forward in an expeditious and cost effective manner.

Sincerely,

Matt Ransom  
Executive Director

- cc. The Honorable Ann Rivers, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- The Honorable Lynda Wilson, 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, RTC Board Chair
- Commissioner Scott Hughes, RTC Board Vice-Chair
- RTC Board Members

Attachment: RTC Resolution 02-17-03

**SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION 02-17-03**

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT A FUTURE  
I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BE DESIGNATED AS A TRANSPORTATION  
PROJECT OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the I-5 bridge is designated as part of a national defense interstate highway system serving the west coast from Canada to Mexico, including Oregon and Washington and is the primary interstate corridor serving the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, bi-state crossing projects, such as an I-5 bridge replacement project, will involve collaboration of both states, regional agencies, and public and private actors within each state; and,

**WHEREAS**, travel time conditions along the I-5 Corridor in Vancouver continue to deteriorate, and total traffic crossings of the Columbia River bridges on I-5 hit an all-time high, as measured and reported by the Regional Transportation Council's Congestion Monitoring Report (2016); and,

**WHEREAS**, existing traffic congestion in the I-5 bridge corridor is negatively impacting the economies of Southwest Washington and the Portland metropolitan area, including businesses and industries that are designated industries of regional and statewide significance; and,

**WHEREAS**, lack of project planning and funding for an I-5 bridge replacement project means continued congestion and delays in the corridor for general traffic, freight mobility, and emergency responders for the forthcoming future; and,

**WHEREAS**, an I-5 bridge replacement project is subject to being designated as a Project of Statewide Significance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) that RTC recommends that the State of Washington designate a future I-5 Bridge Replacement as a Project of Statewide Significance.

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March \_\_\_\_\_, 2017,

by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne E. Stewart  
Chair of the Board

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Ransom  
Executive Director

Senate Transportation Committee

February 28, 2019

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We are also encouraged and support program outcomes that serve to enhance priority state maintenance and asset management programs, as well as increased program set asides for important statewide competitive grant programs and related local improvements.

Please let RTC know how we may be of assistance to the Senate Transportation Committee as you continue the development and evaluation of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Matt Ransom  
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle, RTC Board Chair  
Commissioner Scott Hughes, RTC Board Vice-Chair  
RTC Board Members