



MEMORANDUM

TO: Anne McEnerny-Ogle, RTC Board Chair
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: September 24, 2019
SUBJECT: **RTC Bylaws Committee**

AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify the RTC Board Chair of a need to amend the RTC Bylaws to incorporate federally recognized tribal nation participation on the RTC Board.

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Legislature convened for its 2019 session on January 14 and concluded on April 28. New law created by the Legislature and signed by the Governor (EHB 1584) compels Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) to invite Tribal Nations within their planning boundaries, to become voting members of the RTPO Policy Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EHB 1584

EHB 1584 became effective law as of August 1, 2019. Upon that date, as a condition to being eligible to receive state appropriated planning funds (for designated RTPO purposes), RTC “must provide a reasonable opportunity for voting membership to federally recognized tribes that hold reservation or trust lands within the planning area...”. RTC must offer that voting membership either: “every two years or when the composition of the Board (of the RTPO) is modified in an interlocal agreement”.

In fulfillment of the new law obligation, RTC staff transmitted a letter of invitation to the Cowlitz Tribe and Yakama Nation on August 7, 2019. To date, the Cowlitz Tribe has responded to RTC’s invitation and verbally expressed desire and intention to join the RTC Board.

RTC BYLAWS AMENDMENT

In order to incorporate the Cowlitz Tribe’s participation as a voting member to the RTC Board, the Bylaws must be amended.

Per the RTC Bylaws Article 9, any proposal to amend the Bylaws shall be forwarded to a Bylaws Committee, which will consist of 3-5 members of the Board to be appointed by the Chair and chaired by the Vice Chair. The Bylaws Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board and shall publish that recommendation at least 30-days prior to Board consideration.

RTC BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Board Chair has requested RTC staff support in the convening of a sub-committee of the Board named the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee will meet at least once in October, to consider Bylaws amendments to effectuate implementation of EHB 1584. A final recommendation and report of the Bylaws Committee will be advertised at least 30 days prior to full Board consideration, which is planned for the annual meeting of the RTC Board (December 3, 2019).

The proposed composition of the Bylaws Committee is as follows:

Bylaws Committee Members:

- 1 - Clark County (MPO County)
- 1 - City of Vancouver (MPO Large City)
- 1 – City of Camas (MPO Small City)
- 1 – Port of Ridgefield (Special District) *Committee Chair*
- 1 - WSDOT (Special District)

RTC Staff & Legal Support:

- Executive Director
- RTC General Counsel (Ted Gathe)

LOGISTICS

All meeting preparation and logistics will be organized by RTC staff. Bylaws Committee commitment will at a minimum include one teleconference meeting, and supplemental information will be distributed via email or other communication means.

NEXT STEPS

RTC staff will contact Bylaws Committee members to arrange a meeting of the committee.