



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MARK*
DATE: July 28, 2020
SUBJECT: **Regional Studies Update**

AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Board of ongoing and forthcoming regional transportation planning studies that RTC is leading or participating in and those which may have regional significance and should be monitored.

BACKGROUND

As part of the annual RTC Work Program and Unified Planning Work Program development processes, RTC identifies those activities which it will lead or participate in as a convener or partner to regionally significant transportation planning and project development studies.

The following is a partial list of ongoing, or soon to be initiated, regional transportation planning studies in which RTC is either directly involved, or is tracking outcomes. Many of the Studies are described or referenced in RTC’s [FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program](#) (adopted by RTC Board, May 2019) and/or in Metro’s [2020-2021 UPWP](#). This information is presented in summary form to foster awareness and for individual RTC Board members and agency staff to research further based on individual agency interests.

RTC REGION

Study Name: Regional Active Transportation Plan

Lead Agency: RTC

General Description:

The Regional Active Transportation Plan for the Clark County region will predominantly address pedestrian and bicycling modes. On its completion in winter 2020, the ATP will become an integral part of the Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County. Work is being carried out by RTC in coordination with planning partners and with consultant assistance. The Regional ATP coordinates with local comprehensive plans and Transportation System Plans and with the WSDOT Active Transportation Plan currently being developed with a draft anticipated in fall 2020.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently available*

Study Name: Regional Architecture Study

Lead Agency: RTC

General Description: The Regional Architecture Study will review and update the existing regional architecture and will ensure that the Intelligent Transportation System element of the VAST program meets federal requirements for planning, development, and implementation of ITS projects. It will update the Regional ITS Architecture to account for new technologies and service packages such as connected vehicles and also because of changes to the architecture software structure.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently online*

Study Name: Shared Central Signal System Study

Lead Agency: RTC / WSDOT

General Description: The Study will analyze existing signal systems and develop guidelines for implementing an integrated traffic signal central management system for the region for a unified multi agency regional operational system. The Study will also document the system's engineering process for a shared signal system and outline an implementation strategy for future operations and maintenance for managing a regional signal system.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently online*

Study Name: Urban Freeway Corridor Operations Study

Lead Agency: RTC

General Description: The Study analyzed near term operational and system management improvements that could serve to make the transportation system operate more efficiently and predictably. The strategies include approaches to get the most out of the existing system with low cost capital improvements and technology-based traffic management tools to optimize the flow of traffic and maximize available capacity. The Study report consists of a tiered set of strategy recommendations with detailed information sheets on the relative benefits to operations, safety, and cost for each strategy. Study is complete; a final report to the Board of Directors is planned *for fall 2020*.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: UFCO Study Report:

<https://www.rtc.wa.gov/reports/misc/rtcUFCOStudy.pdf>

Study Name: I-5 / 219th (SR-502) Interchange West Access Study

Lead Agency: City of Ridgefield

General Description: Study of a new interchange access ramp extending westward from the I-5 / 219th (SR-502) Interchange, and connecting to the regional roadway network. It is expected that different scenarios will be evaluated and community input gathered as part of this preliminary engineering study.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently online*

Study Name: Transportation System Plans (*various agencies*)

Lead Agencies: Vancouver, Camas, Clark County

General Description: Study of transportation infrastructure needs and system development policies in support of Comprehensive Plan objectives and community preferences.

City of Vancouver's TSP is underway with a revised scope due to the budget impacts of the COVID pandemic. In 2020, a transportation system analysis, collision analysis and needs assessment is being conducted. Timeline for completion is the 2021-2022 biennium.

Clark County has developed a scope of work for its TSP which will be reviewed at a County Council work session prior to launch of the TSP planning process. Timeline for completion is the second quarter of 2022.

Camas's TSP is currently on hold due to budget constraints.

Websites / Relevant Documents Online: *See Agency websites for further information.*

Study Name: Household Travel Survey

Lead Agency: Metro/ODOT/RTC and other planning partners through Oregon Modeling Steering Committee

General Description: An updated household travel survey to inform the regional transportation planning process and enable update and re-calibration of the regional travel forecast model. A household travel survey is typically conducted in the region every 10 to 15 years with the last survey in 2009. Phase I pre-development survey and methodology work is underway. Due to COVID-19 related travel disruptions, the field survey has been delayed. Fielding of the travel survey is tentatively scheduled for 2021.

Website / Relevant Documents Online: *Not currently available*

BI-STATE (WA/OR) REGION

Study Name: Columbia Connects

Lead Agency: Metro in partnership with RTC, and other regional and local partners

General Description: A sub-area study of bi-state data and economic development opportunities and within neighborhoods abutting the Columbia River within the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Due to COVID-19 related economic disruptions, the scope of this study has been reduced and reoriented towards economic recovery. Background documentation is in progress and strategy planning assessments are pending.

Website / Relevant Documents: *Not currently available*

WASHINGTON STATEWIDE

Study Name: Statewide Transportation Needs Assessment

Lead Agency: WA State Legislature – Joint Transportation Committee

General Description: The Washington State Legislature has commissioned a comprehensive assessment of statewide transportation needs and priorities over the ten-year timeframe spanning 2022-2031. The assessment must include recommendations on critical, efficient, and effective transportation investments; a complete menu of funding options to fund identified priority investments; and recommendations for measuring the economic impact of a range of the recommended investments. A Phase I report has been published. Phase II work is now underway and should result in recommendations to the Legislature for consideration during the 2021 legislative session.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

Phase I Report:

http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Documents/Studies/Statewide%20Needs%202019/FinalReport_StatewideNeeds.pdf

Study Name: Highway System Plan

Lead Agency: WSDOT

General Description: The Highway System Plan (HSP) is the Washington Department of Transportation's statewide blueprint for preserving, maintaining, improving and operating state highways in Washington. The most recent update to the HSP was nearly 12-years ago. The intent of the Plan update is to identify and address today's diverse transportation needs, and set the strategy and Plan for future investments in the state's highway system. The planning process will engage regional agencies and local governments in helping to craft the future Plan. Plan completion is expected in 2021.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/hsp.htm>

OREGON / METRO REGION

Study Name: Oregon Toll Program

Lead Agency: Oregon Department of Transportation (OR)

General Description: ODOT studies of proposed I-205 and I-5 toll program implementation is underway. Proposals for I-205 are being evaluated in a formally convened Environmental Assessment study. Public comments are now being solicited in regards to the proposals Purpose and Need statements. Proposals for I-5 will be subjected to an alternatives refinement phase which is scheduled to be initiated later this year.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

Program website: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/tolling/Pages/default.aspx>

Program schedule:

https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/PublishingImages/2020_0511_ProjectTimeline_DRAFT_v19.jpg

Study Name: Regional Congestion Pricing Study

Lead Agency: Metro (OR)

General Description: Metro, working in partnership with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), TriMet, and in coordination with ODOT, is to lead an investigative technical study of congestion pricing. The Study will look at various applications of pricing to understand outcomes and effects of different pricing policies and programs if applied in the Portland region. The Study is scheduled to conclude in early 2021.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

Project website: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-congestion-pricing-study>

Project Schedule: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2020/04/21/regional-congestion-pricing-study-work-plan.pdf>

Study Name: Regional Mobility Policy Update

Lead Agency: Metro (OR) and ODOT

General Description: Metro's 2018 Regional Transportation Plan recognized that a growing and changing region needs an updated mobility policy for measuring performance of the transportation system and identifying the transportation needs of people and goods. Metro and ODOT will lead planning partners to update the Regional Mobility Policy built around key values recognized in the 2018 RTP of equity, climate, safety, and congestion relief. Work is scheduled to conclude in June 2021.

Website/Relevant Online Documents:

Project Website: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/regional-mobility-policy-update>

Project Schedule: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2020/01/27/Regional-mobility-policy-work-plan-approved-12052019.pdf>