



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director
DATE: April 30, 2013
SUBJECT: **Draft FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program**

AT A GLANCE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board with an overview of the federally-required Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and an opportunity to review RTC and Metro's draft UPWP documents in advance of an anticipated request for Board adoption of RTC's UPWP and endorsement of Metro's UPWP at the June RTC Board meeting. The UPWP is prepared annually by RTC as a requirement for the receipt of federal and state transportation funds. The FY 2014 UPWP is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2013 Work Plan and Budget.

BACKGROUND

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a federally-required document describing the transportation planning activities to be carried out in Clark County as part of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. These activities are performed in response to the requirements specified for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in federal regulations; United States Code (USC) Titles 23 and 49. RTC's draft FY 2014 UPWP (see attached document) covers a one year period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. The UPWP is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2013 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the RTC Board in December 2012 (RTC Board Resolution 12-12-24) extending the Work Plan's timeframe by six months. In addition to describing upcoming transportation planning activities, the UPWP also details the funding sources required to carry out the program and addresses the major transportation policy issues of the upcoming year. This month's agenda item provides RTC Board members with an opportunity to review and provide input on the draft FY 2014 UPWP.

UPWP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

As described above, development of the UPWP follows adoption of RTC's calendar year Work Plan and Budget. The UPWP must be developed by the MPO in cooperation with state Department of Transportation and transit operators. Members of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee help RTC to develop a draft UPWP. Also, federal and state guidance is issued by WSDOT to outline expectations of the MPO.

The UPWP is expected to reflect federal, state, and local transportation planning emphasis areas identified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The federal and state emphasis areas are described in detail on pages xi through xiv of RTC's draft FY 2014 UPWP.

Federal Emphasis Areas:

In summary, federal emphasis is on MPO's compliance with the federal transportation act, MAP-21 and continued implementation of a metropolitan transportation planning program that meets the requirements of 23CFR 450.308 and 23CFR 420.111. This includes addressing the eight federal transportation planning factors outlined on page xii of RTC's draft FY 2014 UPWP. To meet federal requirements, the UPWP must include a discussion of the planning priorities facing the MPO (see pages xii to xiii of RTC's draft UPWP).

State Emphasis Areas:

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) as the venues for identifying regional priorities and coordinating transportation planning at all jurisdictional levels with local comprehensive plans. The regional transportation plan prepared by the RTPO plays an important role in achieving consistency between state, county, city, and town plans and policies. The State emphasizes that RTPOs should continue to implement the GMA and support the six legislative transportation system policy goals of RCW 47.04.280. These goals are:

1. Economic Vitality
2. Preservation
3. Safety
4. Mobility
5. Environment
6. Stewardship

WSDOT also notes that RTPOs are likely to want to stay informed on and/or be active partners in shaping the statewide themes through involvement in statewide planning, WSDOT region planning, state and national legislative activities.

After a first draft UPWP was developed by RTC and planning partners in early 2013, RTAC reviewed the draft at its February 15 meeting prior to RTC's review meeting with FHWA, FTA and WSDOT Headquarter staff held on February 20.

FY 2014 UPWP FORMAT

As in previous years, the draft UPWP has four major areas: (1) Regional Transportation Planning Program, (2) Data Management and Travel Forecasting Process, (3) Transportation Program Coordination and Management, and (4) Transportation Planning Activities of State and Local Agencies. Each section includes work elements that document the anticipated transportation planning activities to be carried out in FY 2014.

To meet federal requirements for Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), such as Clark County, the UPWP must include a discussion of the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describe all metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality

planning activities (including corridor and subarea studies) anticipated within the area, regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting the activities.

To carry out the metropolitan transportation planning program required of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and state Regional Transportation Planning Organization, FHWA and FTA grant federal funds and the state grants state planning funds. The table below presents WSDOT funding estimates for allocated federal PL and FTA funding and an estimate of state Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) funds RTC may receive to carry out the FY 2014 regional transportation planning program. The distribution of these estimated revenues to work elements is summarized on the final page (page 58) of RTC's draft FY 2014 UPWP.

FY 2014 Estimated MPO Funding:

FHWA PL	\$559,705
FTA Section 5303	\$165,936
RTPO Planning	\$175,089

BI-STATE UPWP REQUIREMENTS

The Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area is served by two MPOs; RTC serves the Washington portion of the region and Metro serves the Oregon portion. In a bi-state region, the MPOs must cooperate and coordinate in development and adoption of the UPWP. RTC's draft UPWP is reviewed by Metro's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). Ultimately, the Metro Council takes action to adopt Metro's own UPWP and endorse RTC's. Likewise, Metro's draft UPWP is reviewed by RTC's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the RTC Board is asked to endorse Metro's UPWP as part of the adoption process for RTC's UPWP. Metro's draft 2013/2015 UPWP is attached for your review.

NEXT STEPS

Following review and discussion of the draft UPWP at the May 7 RTC Board meeting, RTAC will be asked to recommend RTC Board adoption. Board action will be requested at the June 4 Board meeting. This timeline would meet the federal and WSDOT-required timeline to have UPWPs submitted by June 14 with FHWA and FTA approval by June 28 thus allowing the UPWP to take effect on July 1, 2013.

Action at the June 4 meeting would also be requested to endorse Metro's 2013-2015 UPWP and authorize RTC's Transportation Director to file applications for regional transportation funding, to execute grant agreements and to file any assurances or required documentation relating to RTC's FY 2014 UPWP.

Attachments: FY 2014 RTC Draft UPWP, FY2013/2015 Metro Draft UPWP