



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director
DATE: May 29, 2013
SUBJECT: **FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program, Resolution 06-13-13**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The action requested is adoption of Resolution 06-13-13 to adopt RTC's FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), including the continuation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization funding agreement, and endorsement of Metro's 2013-15 UPWP. RTC's UPWP is prepared annually as a requirement for the receipt of federal and state transportation planning funds and is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2013 Work Plan and Budget. An overview of the UPWP was provided and this requested action was previewed last month at the May 7 RTC Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Unified Planning Work Program is prepared annually by RTC serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Clark County and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties. Development of a UPWP is required under federal law as part of a coordinated regional transportation planning process and is required for continued receipt of federal transportation funds to the region. In 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 planning activities anticipated for the next one or two year period, regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting the activities (Metropolitan Planning Rule § 450.314). 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 FY 2014 program includes four major sections: (1) Regional Transportation Planning Program, (2) Data Management, Travel Forecasting, Air Quality, and Technical Services, (3) Regional Transportation Program Coordination and Management, and (4) Transportation Planning Activities of State and Local Agencies. There are several individual work elements under each of these four sections. A description of each work element is included in the complete document (see attached copy).

The UPWP is expected to reflect federal, state, and local transportation planning emphasis areas. The Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and Washington State

Department of Transportation annually identify transportation planning emphasis areas (PEAs) to be addressed in the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes. A description of current emphasis areas is provided in the UPWP document on pages xi to xiv. A priority is to ensure compliance with the 2012 federal transportation act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) with its focused approach on objectives-driven, performance-based planning.

POLICY IMPLICATION

The statement of regional transportation planning priorities and activities in a UPWP is a component part of the required federal and state coordinated regional transportation planning process. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) helps to develop the UPWP and has opportunity to review drafts throughout the development process. At its May 17, 2013 meeting, RTAC reviewed the proposed FY 2014 UPWP and recommended RTC Board adoption. The draft UPWP was also reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Washington State Department of Transportation HQ staff at a meeting with RTC staff held on February 20, 2013.

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 development and adoption of their respective UPWPs. 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. On May 9, 2013, Metro's Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) took action to forward Metro's draft 2013/2015 UPWP to the Metro Council for adoption.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The FY 2014 UPWP is consistent with RTC's calendar year 2013 Work Plan and Budget. Annual revenue sources included in the FY 2014 UPWP to sustain RTC's federal and state-required regional transportation planning program are an estimated \$559,705 in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PL funds and \$165,936 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. In recent years, Federal PL funding can be subject to change during the course of the year due to federal funding rescission. \$175,089 in state Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) funding is anticipated. Consistent with the MPO local funding agreement, \$104,500 of local funds are included. This amount has not changed since RTC was established in 1992. Local funds and state RTPO funds are used to provide match for the federal funds. The FY 2014 UPWP budget is consistent with and it builds from RTC's 2013 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the RTC Board in December 2012. During the course of the fiscal year, the Work Program can be amended if necessary.

The revenues/expenditures table at the back of the UPWP outlines all funding sources for regional transportation planning work elements. These include federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CM/AQ) funds for the Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) program, federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and to support federal PL work program elements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program including continuation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization funding agreement, endorsement of Metro’s 2013-2015 UPWP, and authorization for the Transportation Director to file applications for regional transportation funding, to execute grant agreements and to file any assurances or required documentation relating to the FY 2014 UPWP.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 06-13-13, "FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program".

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2013,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

William J. Ganley
Chair of the Board

Dean Lookingbill
Transportation Director

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