



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** October 28, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** 2035 Regional Transportation Plan – Public Comment DRAFT

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***AT A GLANCE - Discussion***

*The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is being updated in 2014 to comply with federal requirements and to ensure continued consistency between federal, state, regional and local plans. The November presentation will focus on the overall RTP draft to be released for public comment in anticipation of a December RTP adoption.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County is the long-range regional transportation plan. At the November RTC Board meeting, the Board will review the draft of the 2014-2035 RTP update and will be asked to provide final comments prior to the proposed December adoption of the RTP update. The draft RTP will be available for public comment during the month of November. The RTP update draft chapters are available for review at: <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/packets/board/2014/11/201411-08-B-DraftRTPChapters.zip>

The focus of the presentation at the November meeting will be to review the work undertaken in 2014 to update the RTP (see attached RTP Development Process) and to provide input on the DRAFT Plan. Staff will review the RTP’s identified projects, transportation modes, and strategies to meet travel demand as well as the application of the financial constraint test for RTP projects that are part of the Designated Regional Transportation System and on the need to look forward to continuing Plan monitoring activities.

Over the past year, the RTC Board has considered elements of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County that are to be updated with adoption of the 2014 RTP. Federal rules require regular Plan update to ensure the region’s continuing receipt of federal transportation dollars. The 2014 update to the RTP is needed to continue to fulfill requirements of the current federal transportation act, MAP-21, and to maintain consistency between state, regional, and local plans.

Since the existing Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was adopted in December 2011 there have been a number of changes that need to be reflected in an updated RTP. These changes include passage of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and the move toward performance monitoring and targeted transportation investment to improve transportation system performance. Other changes that need to be reflected in the Plan update include: designation of a federal primary freight network and update to the National Highway System to

include local principal arterials under MAP-21, update to the transportation Urban Area Boundary (UAB), Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) 2012 update to the population forecasts for Counties in Washington State, and updated growth forecasts resulting from the beginning of Clark County’s Comprehensive Plan update.

The 2014 update to the RTP uses 2035 as the horizon year and is based on land uses and growth allocations resulting from the September 2007 update to local Comprehensive Plans and the preliminary forecasts and allocations of the Clark County 2016 Comprehensive Plan update. The RTP also includes updated transportation data and recommendations from recent state and regional transportation studies. The RTP update process is consistent with the federal metropolitan transportation planning process best practices and is designed to be a plan to meet Clark County’s regional transportation needs over the next 20 years.

To recap the RTP development process, the table below provides an overview of Plan elements that have been reviewed during 2014 and the months when each element has been a part of the Board’s agenda.

**RTP Elements: 2014 MTP Update**

<b>RTP Elements</b>	<b>Discussed at 2014 RTC Board Meetings:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Update Development: Scoping and Decision-Making Process, RTP Elements</li> </ul>	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Policy Framework: Vision and Goals</li> </ul>	March, April, June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographics including updated 2035 Population, Households and Employment Forecast</li> </ul>	April, June,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation</li> </ul>	April, October, November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Assessment</li> </ul>	February and April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation System Needs, Projects and Strategies, including Regional Travel Forecasting Model Analysis and Results <i>- see RTP Appendix B; 2035 RTP List of RTP and Local Projects</i></li> </ul>	September, October, November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Plan: Background Assumptions, Revenue Forecast and Project Cost Estimates, Fiscal Constraint</li> </ul>	August, September, October, November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP Draft Plan</li> </ul>	November

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

The public is encouraged to participate in this year’s RTP update process. RTP information and RTC Board materials on the RTP update have been made available on RTC’s website. The

public is able to provide RTP comments via the RTC website, e-mail, phone or mail. RTC staff sends notices of the RTP's development and public outreach opportunities to Clark County and Vancouver neighborhood coordinators and keeps small cities informed through the respective Regional Transportation Advisory Committee representatives.

In 2014, RTC hosted a round table discussion on regional transportation issues in collaboration with the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) as part of the Washington Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan update processes and made RTP update materials available at a September 8 Open House at the Downtown Vancouver Public Library also jointly hosted by the WSTC and RTC. The draft RTP update will be released for public comment to allow at least a thirty day comment period prior to the December 2 RTC Board meeting.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The RTC Board will be presented a final RTP (2014) for adoption at the December 2, 2014 Board meeting. Draft RTP chapters are currently published for public, resource agency, and tribe review and comment. The full document is available on RTC's web site for review and comment during the month of November.

# THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: RTP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION

