



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: October 25, 2016
SUBJECT: YR 2017 RTC Work Program - DRAFT

AT A GLANCE - DISCUSSION

The RTC's 2017 Work Plan is founded on the adopted FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program and supplemented by activities to receive additional emphasis during YR 2017. Review of the 2017 Work Program Emphasis Areas at the November Board meeting precedes staff's proposed adoption of the YR 2017 Budget at the December 6, 2016 Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION

RTC's 2017 Work Program is based on the program activities described in the approved FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (*adopted by: BR 05-16-08*).

UPWP web hyper-link: <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/upwp/docs/UPWP2017-20160503-Adopted.pdf>

RTC's UPWP focuses on the continuing and comprehensive regional planning and collaborative decision making process and general MPO administration (*outlined in detail in the FY 2017 UPWP*). The UPWP work program produces the bulk of the agency's products and services to members. The UPWP work program is informed by accurate data, research, analysis, and special program management, each of which is used to identify needs and strategies that address the RTC region's pressing current and future regional transportation demands.

In addition to the core work program of the UPWP, staff have identified work efforts that will receive additional emphasis during YR 2017. The 2017 Work Program - *Emphasis Areas*, are generally topics that are current and need to be addressed in 2017. The intent of the Emphasis Area designation is to provide focus on a specific topic, due to either a current mandate, external influences, and/or in response to contemporary and relevant regional issues discussion.

YR 2017 EMPHASIS AREAS

In YR 2017, the RTC will be working to complete a couple regional studies that were initiated in YR 2016 (Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study, and Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study). RTC will start-up efforts to develop inputs to the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. In addition, a significant uptick in work for MAP-21 related performance planning and measures is expected for those measures and targets which need to be adopted in 2017.

In support of the new activities planned for pre-development of the 2018 RTP and MAP-21 performance measures implementation, staff is recommending an allocation of one-time

professional services budget resources (\$75,000) to support these focused efforts. A brief description of those efforts is below.

2018 Regional Transportation Plan update. As part of the 2017 Work Program, staff will begin background research and development of the input assumptions for the 2018 plan update. Two areas of additional activity (and supported by professional services) relate to deploying some form of stakeholder *Engagement Process* and to engage *Technical Assistance* for inclusion of MAP-21 related performance measures into the Plan. Scoping of both of these efforts will include member agencies through RTAC and the RTC Board as appropriate.

MAP-21 Performance Based Planning. Just recently USDOT began to finalize performance measure rulemaking and the first state performance target in the Safety category is expected to be set (by the State) at the end of 2016. With this recent activity, RTC will need to formalize and adopt performance measures, including building those targets into the Regional Transportation Plan. *Technical Assistance* is needed to help shape the framework for how RTC implements performance targets (i.e. the targets/measures, reporting and inclusion in RTC's planning documents).

An outline of the key Emphasis Areas of the YR 2017 Work Program is attached.

NEXT STEPS

Following the November Board meeting, staff will finalize the YR 2017 RTC Work Program and accompanying RTC YR 2017 Budget and present both for adoption at the December RTC Board meeting.

Attachments:

- 1) RTC YR 2017 Work Program - Emphasis Areas
- 2) Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2017

RTC YR 2017 Work Program

Emphasis Areas

1. Regional Project Funding

- a. Grant Program Policy and Scoring Review
- b. Annual Grant Program Call for Projects/Evaluation/Awards

2. 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Implementation

- a. Engagement for 2018 Plan Update
- b. Technical Preparations for 2018 Plan Update
- c. Federal Functional Classification Review for Regional Roadways
- d. Complete & Safe Streets Policy Review & Recommendations to Board
- e. Regional Traffic Model Updates to YR 2015 Baseline and 2040 Future

3. Studies

- a. Bus on Shoulder Phase I Study Evaluation
- b. Bingen/White Salmon Circulation Study

4. Regional Freight / Commerce Planning and Data Collection

- a. Regional Freight Priority Project – Consultation with member agencies for FAST Act grants and related state plan updates
- b. Interest Group Outreach and Engagement
 - i. Coordination with SW Freight and Commerce Task Force
 - ii. Coordination with Metro Freight Task Force

5. MAP-21 Implementation

- a. Performance Target Setting with Board
 - i. Safety
 - ii. Bridge and Pavement
 - iii. Transit Measures
- b. Monitoring and Comments to Federal Rule Making Process
 - i. MPO Reform and Coordination
- c. Multi-jurisdictional Committee for Target Setting and Performance Monitoring

6. Partnership Building

- a. Bi-State Coordination Committee(s) Support & Outreach
- b. Partner Outreach and Engagement (ex. CREDC, ICC, MCCED, etc.)
- c. Enterprise Activity Support

7. Administrative

- a. Ongoing review of administrative policies and procedures