

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN METRO AND
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

This Memorandum of Understanding (this "MOU") is made and entered into by and between METRO and the SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as "RTC"), collectively referred to herein as the "Parties."

RECITALS

1. METRO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization designated by the Governor of Oregon as the agency responsible for cooperative regional transportation planning in the Oregon portion of the Portland Vancouver Urbanized Area in compliance with 23 U.S.C. §134, and 49 U.S.C. §5303.
2. RTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization designated by the Governor of Washington as the agency responsible for cooperative regional transportation planning in the Washington portion of the Portland Vancouver Urbanized Areas in compliance with 23 U.S.C. §134, and 49 U.S.C. §5303.
3. 23 U.S.C. §134 states that "The Secretary shall encourage each Governor with responsibility for a portion of a multistate metropolitan area and the appropriate metropolitan planning organizations to provide coordinated transportation planning for the entire area" and, "If a transportation improvement, funded from the Highway Trust Fund or authorized under chapter 53 of title 49, is located within the boundaries of more than one metropolitan planning area, the metropolitan planning organizations shall coordinate plans and TIPs regarding the transportation improvement."
4. METRO and RTC desire to maintain mechanisms that will ensure adequate coordination of transportation policies, plans, and programs of interstate significance.
5. METRO and RTC desire to define planning responsibilities in carrying out regional transportation planning programs.
6. METRO and RTC will ensure that processes are coordinated to assure the development of consistent metropolitan transportation plans across boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**ARTICLE I
COORDINATION MECHANISMS**

Section 1. The Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee of METRO ("TPAC") includes members from RTC and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Section 2. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) of RTC includes members from METRO and the Oregon Department of Transportation ("ODOT").

Section 3. The METRO Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation ("JPACT") includes three Washington State members from Clark County, the City of Vancouver, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Section 4. The RTC Board of Directors includes representatives of METRO and ODOT.

Section 5. Metro and RTC will continue to coordinate closely on planning issues related to the I-5 Bridge, I-205 Bridge, interstate urban transit, high-speed passenger rail, Columbia River marine terminals, bi-state freight rail, air terminals and the ongoing economic development of the shared Columbia River Corridor. Metro and RTC may choose to collaborate on specific studies and planning projects regarding these topics through separate agreements or contracts, subject to this agreement.

Section 6. The Bi-State Coordination Committee was created through a separate agreement between Metro and RTC and other local and state governments within the Portland/Vancouver Urbanized Area. The Bi-State Coordination Committee can be convened to provide a forum for coordination and consultation on matters of regional transportation planning and bi-state interest. Separately, Metro and RTC may choose to jointly coordinate and consult on specific studies and projects of bi-state interest and to fulfill other metropolitan transportation planning obligations.

Section 7. The staffs of METRO and RTC will communicate on a regular basis to ensure adequate coordination of the following: (1) the technical aspects of regional transportation; (2) efforts to evaluate alternative policies involving issues of interstate significance; and (3) activities involved in developing, evaluating, and refining proposals to be included in regional transportation plans and programs.

Section 8. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) prepared by METRO for the Oregon portion of the urbanized area are to describe how issues of interstate significance are addressed. Before the RTP or MTIP for its planning area is adopted by METRO, RTC will be consulted. Any comments or concerns expressed by RTC are to be considered before adoption. Comments will be solicited from RTC and considered by METRO before METRO approves any plan or TIP amendment having interstate significance.

Section 9. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) prepared by RTC for the Washington portion of the urbanized area are to describe how issues of interstate significance are addressed. Before the RTP or MTIP for its planning area are adopted by the RTC governing body, METRO will be consulted. Any comments or concerns expressed by METRO are to be considered before adoption. Comments will be solicited from METRO before RTC approves any plan or TIP amendment having interstate significance.

Section 10. RTC and METRO will consult with one another to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describing Federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken. METRO adopts a UPWP for METRO and endorses the RTC's UPWP. RTC adopts a UPWP for RTC and endorses METRO's UPWP.

Section 11. RTC and METRO will coordinate at technical and policy levels on cross-river projects with likely benefits and impacts for residents of each MPO.

ARTICLE II PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. METRO and RTC are responsible for preparing Regional Transportation Plans and Metropolitan Improvement Programs for their respective planning areas. These efforts are to be coordinated as described in this Article II.

Section 2. METRO and RTC are responsible for maintaining and applying techniques for simulating regional travel and air quality implications of transportation and land use proposals and alternatives in the planning process.

Section 3. METRO and RTC are responsible for the joint development of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area travel forecasting tools and processes. This includes the coordination of model input data, model procedures, model development/refinement and household travel behavior surveys. Adequate zone and network structure within both METRO and Clark County will be maintained to conduct bi-state multi-modal analysis for the bi-state area, as well as the member agencies and jurisdictions of both MPOs.

Section 4. METRO is the lead agency for the travel forecasting process within the Portland METRO area and RTC is the lead agency for the travel forecasting process within Clark County. METRO and RTC will coordinate at the technical and policy levels in regard to all projects or studies of bi-state significance.

**ARTICLE III
TERMINATION, EXTENSION, AND MODIFICATION**

Section 1. This MOU is to be reviewed and renewed triennially with the approval of the annual UPWP.

Section 2. This MOU may be modified or terminated at any time with the mutual written consent of the Parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this MOU to be executed in their respective names by their authorized representatives as of the last date signed by the Parties below.

**SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

METRO

~~XXXXXXXX~~
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DocuSigned by:
Marissa Madrigal
3555BBEE0804D2...
Chief Operating Officer

~~XXXXXXXX~~
~~Date~~

5/25/2021
Date

DocuSigned by:
MLR
1093CF97B0334F4...
Executive Director

Date 7/7/2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

DocuSigned by:
Ted Gatlue
402E45DE568B4C2...
Southwest Washington
Regional Transportation Council Legal Counsel

DocuSigned by:
MB
B36595129F2940C...
Office of Metro Attorney

7/7/2021
Date

5/25/2021
Date