



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: July 30, 2019 
SUBJECT: **2019-2022 TIP and 2020 UPWP Amendment: Columbia Connects Bi-State Study, Resolution 08-19-20**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The action requested is to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to program \$50,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for the Columbia Connects Bi-State Study. This study will analyze how regional investment can improve bi-state economic development.

INTRODUCTION

All regionally significant projects must be listed in the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which in turn becomes a part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). All regional transportation planning activities must be listed in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed this proposed TIP and UPWP amendment at their July 19, 2019, meeting and recommended RTC Board adoption.

PROPOSED TIP AMENDMENT

The region has set-aside \$100,000 a year in federal STBG funds for strategic Regional Partnership planning. This was conceived as a multi-agency initiative to provide regional funding to carry out regional transportation planning studies. Over the last year, RTC has been coordinating with Metro and other local agencies to define the Columbia Connects Bi-State Study and is now ready to move forward with the study.

RTC's policies require that any change in regional federal funds must be approved by both RTAC and the RTC Board. The following project is proposed to be added into the STIP using regional funds set-aside for regional partnership planning:

Columbia Connects Bi-State Study: RTC is requesting to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add the Columbia Connects Bi-State Study. The purpose of this study is to develop policies and strategies for bi-state regional investment to improve economic development. This amendment would program \$50,000 in federal STBG funds, with \$25,000 in local match for the Study that will be managed by Metro. This represents the Washington share of a \$500,000 regional study effort.

The attached STIP project record report provides additional information on this project.

POLICY IMPLICATION

This amendment is consistent with federal requirements and is financially constrained. This Study is intended to identify policies and strategies for bi-state regional investment to support economic development.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

RTC’s 2019 Work Program and Budget identified the Columbia Connects study as a work program activity and the planned \$50,000 STBG commitment was included in the approved Budget. Action on this amendment will officially program \$50,000 of regional STBG funds, allowing for formal obligation of these grant funds later this year. The STBG grant funds will be matched with \$25,000 from the City of Vancouver to provide the Washington share of a \$500,000 bi-state regional planning study.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 08-19-20 “2019-2022 TIP and 2020 UPWP Amendment: Columbia Connects Bi-State Study.”

ADOPTED this 6th day of August 2019, by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:


Anne McEnery-Ogle
Chair of the Board



Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Attachments

Washington State S. T. I. P.

2019 to 2022

(Project Funds to Nearest Dollar)

MPO/RTPO: RTC

Y Inside

N Outside

July 11, 2019

County: Clark

Agency: RTC

Func Cls	Project Number	PIN	STIP ID	Imp Type	Total Project Length	Environmental Type	RW Required	Begin Termini	End Termini	Total Est. Cost of Project	STIP Amend. No.
00			WA-12320	18	0.000	CE	No	Region Wide	Region Wide	75,000	19-08

Columbia Connects Bi-State Study

Undertake a bi-state transportation and land use planning study for the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. The purpose of the study is to develop policies and strategy for regional investment to improve economic development. This includes RTC's portion of the total, which is shared with Metro.

Funding

Phase	Start Date	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds		State Funds	Local Funds	Total
			Federal Funds	State Fund Code			
PE	2019	STP(UL)	50,000		0	25,000	75,000
Project Totals			50,000		0	25,000	75,000

Expenditure Schedule

Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
PE	10,000	50,000	15,000	0	0
Totals	10,000	50,000	15,000	0	0

Agency Totals for RTC	Federal Funds		State Funds	Local Funds	Total
	Federal Funds	State Funds			
Agency Totals for RTC	50,000		0	25,000	75,000

**SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
FY 2020 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM - SUMMARY OF REVENUES/EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE**

Work Element		N O T E S	1.	1.	1.				
			FY 2020 Federal FHWA PL	FY 2020 Federal FTA	Federal STBG	State RTPO	Other Local Funds	RTC Local Funds	RTC TOTAL
I REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM									
A	Regional Transportation Plan	2.	125,200	39,400	120,000	30,344	37,803	30,234	382,981
B	Transportation Improvement Program		50,080	15,760	28,000	12,138		12,093	118,071
C	Congestion Management Process		50,080	15,760	28,000	12,138		12,093	118,071
D	Vancouver Area Smart Trek Program				236,000			36,832	272,832
E	Skamania and Klickitat RTPO					45,310			45,310
F	Urban Freeway Corridors Operations Study	3.			215,000		33,555		248,555
G	Regional Active Transportation Plan	4.			100,000		15,607		115,607
	Sub-Total		225,360	70,920	727,000	99,929	86,965	91,253	1,301,427
II DATA MANAGEMENT, TRAVEL FORECASTING, AIR QUALITY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES									
A	Reg. Transp. Data, Forecast, AQ & Tech. Services		269,180	84,710	150,500	65,239	26,660	65,002	661,291
B	Household Travel Survey	5.			500,000		78,035		578,035
	Sub-Total		269,180	84,710	650,500	65,239	104,695	65,002	1,239,326
III TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT									
A	Reg. Transp. Program Coord. & Management		131,460	41,370	73,500	31,861		31,745	309,936
B	Columbia Connects Bi-State Study	6.			50,000		25,000		75,000
	Sub-Total		131,460	41,370	123,500	31,861	25,000	31,745	384,936
TOTALS			626,000	197,000	1,501,000	197,029	216,660	188,000	2,925,689

08/06/2019

NOTES:

1. Minimum local match for federal PL, FTA and STBG funds is provided from state RTPO, MPO and local funds. Local match for FHWA, FTA and STBG funds is assumed at 13.5%.
2. \$120,000 in STBG funds includes \$50,000 to fund an HCT Study update. Work Scope to be developed.
3. The UFCOS Study is a 2-year study, FY 2018-FY2019. Amounts are for the full 2-year study.
4. The Regional Active Transportation Plan is a 2-year study, FY 2019 to FY 2020.
5. The Household Travel Survey is a 2-year study, FY 2020 to FY 2021.
6. This represents the Washington portion of a \$500K bi-state study

3B. COLUMBIA CONNECTS BI-STATE STUDY

The Columbia Connects initiative builds on existing bi-state and multi-jurisdictional collaborations by introducing a new level of coordination between transportation and land use agencies and economic and workforce interests. The partnership will employ innovative tools and identify and implement projects to overcome infrastructure deficiencies that currently impede economic advances in the national freight and commerce corridor where Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 span the Columbia River. The corridors provide key commute and freight connections between Portland, Oregon and southwest Washington State and the wider Pacific Northwest megaregion, and it is a vital freight and commerce link between ports, airports and major cities in adjacent states, linking the West Coast with Canada and Mexico. The purpose of the Study is to have bi-state partners work together to develop policies and strategies for bi-state regional investment to improve economic development.

The Columbia Connects initiative seeks to build on existing bi-state and multi-jurisdictional collaborations by forming a new partnership between transportation and land use agencies and economic and workforce interests for a specific bi-state project area

Work Element Objectives and Activities

- Columbia Connects will be a national model for bi-state collaboration between transportation and land use development activities and crucial economic and workforce ventures.
- Project partners face unique challenges in achieving coordinated and shared economic success despite having distinctly interrelated local economies with a shared infrastructure network, workforce, land and housing base, and supply chain connections. The two states, Oregon and Washington, have different tax structures, land use activity and policy considerations, and job and industry conditions that stymie our ability to collectively pursue economic advances.
- The resulting shared investment plan will include near-term actions for immediate relief for moving people and goods while preparing for future interstate improvements to ensure shared economic prosperity.
- Identified investments may include transportation improvements, but also activities to manage and support land use change and site development readiness, workforce training, and business retention and expansion in support of the local, regional, and broader bi-state Pacific Northwest megaregion economies.
- The project seeks to prepare the region and its communities for a set of major interstate and transit investments on I-5 and I-205, leverage them in support of desired economic outcomes, and ensure that other existing and proposed land, air, and marine transportation assets and improvements are coordinated effectively.
- New bi-state evaluations of macro-economic and industry trends to bolster investments in transportation and land use development.
- A new framework for sustained bi-state cooperation on shared economic values that establishes more robust relationships with an expanded set of partners and community leaders dedicated to economic and workforce issues.

Relationship To Other Work Elements

The Columbia Connects relates to the Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for project programming, and Coordination and Management because it is a Bi-State study.

FY 2020 Tasks and Products

- Conditions and needs assessment of the project area and influence area.
- Spatial analysis to support conditions and needs assessment. Application of the newly formulated Economic Value Atlas tool will be used to pair GIS analysis with economic values to assist in understanding regional economic dynamics, identify competitive advantages for the target project area, and exhibit needs and opportunities in local case study locations.
- Strategy report for how to advance equitable development outcomes. New strategies to identify and support equitable development needs and outcomes based on models employed in other areas will be applied, and outlined in the conditions and needs assessment.
- New framework for bi-state cooperation. Establishing an expanded set of partners among less traditional community stakeholder groups dedicated to economic and workforce issues.
- Peer exchange work sessions with Puget Sound Regional Council to coordinate our approach to the partnership, and examine infrastructure investment and land use development to improve economic outcomes across the Pacific Northwest megaregion.
- A list of shared values and associated indicators. Shared values for community and economic advancement will be drawn from core economic values developed at the regional scale, including:
 - Business - Job and firm growth, targeted industry growth, support for innovation, and strengthening of market connectivity
 - People - Workforce training and labor access improvements, expanding opportunities for low-middle skill workers, addressing conditions of poverty and low economic attainment for the working class, and eliminating hurdles and leveraging workers and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds
 - Place - Enhancing area livability, development potential, market conditions, and fostering affordability
 - Other values – Drawing from consortium members and public engagement.
- A shared investment strategy that includes a multi-party approach outlining near term investments that address shared challenges, opportunities to leverage and layer funding streams and pursue resources collectively, and commitments to advance on the strategy and maintain the partnership.
- Action plan that will support the economy and advance specific pilot project and site opportunities for public and private investment.
- Parcel/site readiness assessments to facilitate residential, commercial, and industrial development that leverages existing and planned infrastructure investment and aligns with shared economic values.
- Report on recommended strategies to maintain partnership and ensure joint commitments are implemented.

- Action plan and tiered project list to support the economy and advance specific pilot project and site opportunities for public and private investment.
- MOUs and/or other agency and organizational agreements and commitments
- Final progress report and survey of partners
- Best practices report and recommended refinements to performance metrics and technical approach.

FY 2020 Funding: Columbia Connects Bi-State Study, Washington’s

FY 2020/21 Revenues:

FY 2020/21 Expenses:

	\$		\$
STBG	\$50,000	RTC	\$75,000
Local Match – City of Vancouver	\$25,000		
Total	<u>\$75,000</u>		<u>\$75,000</u>

*This represents the Washington portion of a \$500K bi-state study.
Federal STBG funds are programmed in the region’s TIP in anticipation of developing the Columbia Connects Bi-State Study*