

CHAPTER 6

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

Federal transportation planning is intended to be conducted in a coordinated, comprehensive, and continuous manner. The 3 C's of transportation planning ensure that a continuous community dialogue is maintained in developing plans, priorities, and projects that ultimately deliver the results needed to maintain the economic competitiveness and livability of the region.

A continuous planning process with progressively deeper conversations will strengthen regional ties and collaboration. These efforts will result in a more comprehensive approach to plans and projects that have evolved over extended discussion.

Regional Vision Summary

The conversations that identified the Vision, Goals, and Policies in this document will continue to lead discussions regarding implementation strategies. The RTP is centered on a shared regional vision – a statement of aspiration for the future of the transportation system. This vision is:

To achieve a safe and well-maintained regional transportation system that integrates all travel modes, supports a healthy economy, and enhances the quality of life across the region.

The transportation system will:

- Protect the region's investment by preserving and enhancing existing infrastructure.
- Provide viable travel options across all modes and throughout our diverse region.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is built upon four foundational principles, which were crafted by CWCOC staff

through an analysis of the common regional aspirations identified during stakeholder visioning discussions. These principles were used to guide the development the plan, and to determine areas of focus for the existing conditions analysis (Chapter 4), as well as the Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment (Chapter 5). The guiding principles for the RTP are:

1. Preserve and improve the regional transportation system through partnerships in order to maximize investment.
2. Provide an integrated transportation system that encourages the use of all modes by offering accessible, safe, and efficient travel options.
3. Encourage the preservation and enhancement of public transportation programs and infrastructure throughout the Southwest Washington RTP, and explore opportunities for expanding service to increase access to jobs, services, and other key destinations.
4. Support the region's economic vitality through ensuring the transportation network addresses inter- and intra-regional accessibility and mobility needs for both people and goods.

The guiding principles listed above were used to develop five RTP goals and 28 policies, based on common regional aspirations identified during stakeholder visioning discussions. These goals aim to lead the MPO and SWRTPO in a unified direction that treats the region's transportation infrastructure as one interconnected, multi-modal system, rather than as separate parts. The goals and policies are presented in Chapter 3, along with a description of the state planning priorities that provide the framework for the plan.

The RTP goals include:

- Goal 1:** Promote and support a transportation system that strengthens the region's economic competitiveness.
- Goal 2:** Preserve and enhance the region's existing transportation infrastructure and facilities.
- Goal 3:** Develop an integrated non-motorized transportation system.
- Goal 4:** Maintain, modernize, and enhance a sustainable and comprehensive public transportation system.
- Goal 5:** Maintain and enhance a regional transportation system that is safe and accessible for multiple travel modes.

Emphasis Areas

Four emphasis areas were identified to assist in the analysis of the regional transportation gaps and needs, and the development of next steps to reach the goals and implement the policies. These emphasis areas are not intended to be a replacement for the regional transportation goals. Instead, they were established with the recognition that many of the next steps developed under each strategy will help further the intent and direction of the RTP vision, goals, and policies. The four emphasis areas are:

- Freight Transportation
- Roadways
- Public Transportation
- Active Transportation

Bringing the Vision to Fruition

Following adoption of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, CWCOC staff will coordinate with stakeholders for the four emphasis areas to work on the "Next Steps" identified in Chapter 5. Additionally, work elements to implement the plan will be included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). These work elements will be incorporated into the long-term strategies

to be built upon during the next series of regional planning conversations.

2016-2017 UPWP Work Elements

Metropolitan Planning Organization

- Update the MPO Traffic Model, which will also entail work on developing updated:
 - Land use inventory
 - Employment data
 - Traffic counts, turning movements, and other key traffic data.
- Systematize the collection of traffic data to serve MPO jurisdictions as part of the annual Surface Transportation Program.
- Work with key stakeholders for highway, marine, rail and air transportation to identify freight mobility barriers and needs within the MPO for incorporation into WSDOT Freight Planning updates in 2017.
- Assist in development of the Longview Comprehensive Plan Update with Scenario Planning, if desired, using the updated Traffic Model.
- Integration of Active Living & Healthy Communities element with transportation and economic development planning efforts.
- Develop project selection criteria that reflect MTP goals and policies.

Regional Transportation Planning Organization

- Identification of freight mobility barriers and needs in the SWRTPO region for incorporation into WSDOT Freight Planning plan updates in 2017.
- Ongoing coordination with regional transit providers in support of expanded transit capacity and improved data collection.
- Review project selection criteria and modify as necessary to ensure they reflect RTP goals and policies.
- Develop a Bicycle & Pedestrian Assessment for the MPO and RTPO planning areas.

2017-2018 UPWP Work Elements

- Complete a Transportation Systems Plan for Rainier, Oregon; use this to develop a strategy to update the city's comprehensive plan.
- Update the 2018 -2040 Regional Transportation Plan, bringing in enhanced data and planning components developed during the previous planning cycle.

Long Term Strategies

In order to attain the vision detailed in this RTP, the region's efforts must be ongoing, and continue through the next plan iteration and two-year planning cycle. Stakeholders will assist with the development of long term strategies for each of the four emphasis areas. These long term strategies will include in the next update to the RTP within two years.