



May 2026 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Agency:

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Southwest Region

Project:

Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (MPO)

The Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (M/RTIP) is a short-range investment plan with a primary purpose of identifying transportation projects ready to move forward. Projects in the M/RTIP must:

1. Be regionally significant, or have funding from Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration programs; and
2. Have secured funding; and
3. Be consistent with the adopted long-range transportation plan (Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan & Regional Transportation Plan).

Projects approved for inclusion in the M/RTIP are forwarded to WSDOT to be added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The CWCOG Board of Directors adopts a new version of the M/RTIP annually in September that is applicable to the Metropolitan Planning Area covering all of Cowlitz County, WA and Rainier, OR. After adoption sometimes new projects are funded, or existing projects have budget or scope changes, and the new information needs to be included on the M/RTIP. Changes to the M/RTIP are called an amendment. Most amendments are processed administratively by CWCOG staff, but occasionally a change to a project within the metropolitan planning area exceeds the threshold for staff review and requires action by the CWCOG Board of Directors (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Common reasons for an amendment needing board action include: 1) Adding a new project with more than \$3 million in federal funding; or 2) Adjusting the total project budget by more than \$3 million or 30%.

WSDOT Southwest Region has submitted a request to amend the Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (MPO), a regionwide project to increase the total project cost by \$5,790,643. More information on the proposed change is listed below. The CWCOG Board of Directors will consider action on this May 2026 Amendment during their regular meeting on April 23rd.

Washington State Department of Transportation Southwest Region – Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

Project Description: Resurface the roadway with chip seal or hot mix asphalt to preserve the structural integrity of the roadway and extend the service life of the pavement. This is a regionwide project that programs funding that is used for any WSDOT paving project(s) within the Metropolitan Planning Area (all of Cowlitz County, Washington.)

Secured Funding Sources:

- National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)
- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
- Washington State Funds

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$15,264,470

Reason Amendment Requires CWCOG Board Action: This amendment requests approval to increase the total project cost from \$9,473,827 to \$15,264,470, an increase of \$5,790,643 (61%). Around Washington State for other Metropolitan or Regional Transportation Planning Organization regions, WSDOT has similar regionwide projects to identify all federal/state funds to support the paving projects in the specific region. WSDOT regularly rebalances funds for paving projects based on needs in each region. This regionwide project cost increase was balanced out by a total cost decrease for the regionwide paving project that covers Lewis, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties.

Please submit comments on this proposed amendment to CWCOG (Attention: Robert Stevens, Senior Transportation Planner) by regular mail – PO Box 128 Kelso, WA 98626, via email - cwcog@cwco.org, or through the www.cwcog.org public comment tool. Close date for comments is April 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.