

TRI-CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY ANNUAL REPORT

Includes RTPO Program
JULY 2009

INTRODUCTION:

The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCG) is a voluntary association of local governments within Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties. Its governing board consists of thirteen elected officials from cities, counties, transit, public port districts and a public utility district within the three-county area. Twelve of the elected officials represent the Tri-Cities urbanized area, which makes up the Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (Tri-MATS). Eight of the urban representatives also have jurisdiction in the rural counties. The BFCG Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) was successfully created in 1990, with Walla Walla County jurisdictions joining in January of 1991. In 2003 the urban boundary expansion brought a portion of Walla Walla County into the MPO.

The BFCG was designated by the Governor of the State of Washington in 1973 as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tri-Cities area. By this designation, the BFCG is responsible for ensuring that transportation planning activities, and their resulting implementation, are a result of U.S.C. Section 134, as well as Title 49 U.S.C. of Federal Code. Fulfilling these requirements permitted local governments to utilize Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, TEA 21 of 1998, and the 2005 SAFETEA-LU. The BFCG has been certified as meeting the requirements of Title 23 and Title 49, as well as being an MPO. This certification by the Washington State Department of Transportation is valid through September of 2009.

This annual report identifies work activities that were contained within the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and describes the progress and accomplishments that occurred during the twelve month period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. A UPWP guides the transportation planning activities of the MPO/RTPO for a one or two year period. During that time, program tasks that will benefit member agencies, the region, and the State are undertaken to improve the efficiency of the overall system. Identification of these tasks includes the development of objectives, scope of work, responsibility for completion of the work, and funding the anticipated product. Occasionally, during the course of a fiscal year, new work tasks are identified or current activities reprioritized. When changes to the work programs are proposed, those changes are reviewed by the MPO/RTPO Tri-MATS Advisory Committees, BFCG Board, WSDOT, and the applicable federal agency before being accepted and incorporated into the study program.

This year's Annual Report reflects the work program for fiscal year 2009, special studies, and includes the RTPO program.

Fiscal Year 2009 Accomplishments:

1. Conducted TAC and PAC meetings with associated Agendas and Minutes.
2. Completed Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2010.
3. Prepared and amended the 2009-2012 MPO/RTPO TIP.
4. Prepared FY 2008 Annual progress report.
5. Attended MPO/RTPO, Good Roads, TIB, GIS, GMA, transit, and other assorted meetings, and workshops that related to transportation.
6. Continued public dissemination of state and federal transportation policies and programs.
7. Continued Transportation Demand Management coordination for the Tri-Cities.
8. Continued to monitor Commute Trip Reduction in the Tri-Cities Urban Area.
9. Completed MPO 2009 certification for TIP.
10. Participated in Legislative Breakfasts in Olympia and the Tri-Cities.
11. Participated SR 12 Coalition meetings for the four-laning of SR 12 from SR 124 to Walla Walla.
12. Completed RTPO "Status of Railroads" report.
13. Completed RTP Biannual Review
14. Continued updating Federal Functional Classification system.
15. Continued the GIS computer program mapping activities for MPO & RTPO.
16. Maintained BFCG website.
17. Worked with BFCG counties and other RTPO's to further develop, document and map their "all-weather" road systems and submitted funding request to the Legislature.
18. Produced RTPO Annual Traffic Report and added to website.
19. Certified transportation elements of city/county comprehensive plans.
20. Continued tracking of STP Urban and Rural Allocations and obligations.
21. Coordinate/administer 2008-2011 competitive STP process and selection methods.
22. Updated RTPO elected officials directory.

23. Published monthly newsletter.
24. Participated in area projects like I-82/Red Mountain Area Study.
25. Updated and printed additional "Cycling Tri-Cities", a bicycle guide map for the Tri-Cities and environs.
26. Assisted Ben Franklin Transit in conducting Customer Service Survey.

The remainder of this annual report identifies individual work categories and what was accomplished during the course of the fiscal year. Each category noted identifies its purpose, accomplishments, and work remaining to be done.

FISCAL YEAR 2009
RTPO ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

CATEGORY 220 - RTPO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Attended regularly scheduled RTPO meeting. Continued to administer RTPO Program that is relevant to the Benton/Franklin/Walla Walla Rural Area. Attended various workshops on transportation; Hosted educational workshops. Continued public outreach/education. Participated in planning studies for SR 12 four-lane expansion from SR 124 to Walla Walla and the I-82/Red Mountain Area Study. Monitored/Administrated rural counties STP and Transportation Enhancement funding programs. Provided education on TEA-4. Published monthly newsletter. Coordinated regional applications for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 projects.

PROBLEMS: None

NEXT YEAR: Administration is an ongoing process for the Benton/Franklin/Walla Walla RTPO. Monitor progress of regional TIP toward implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan. Monitor/Administer rural counties STP. Continue participation in planning for SR 12 four-lane expansion from SR 124 to Walla Walla and the I-82/Red Mountain Area Study. Continue support of freight strategies.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$30,000	\$40,390	(\$-10,390)	134%	100%

CATEGORY 221 - RTPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Submitted Annual Report to WSDOT. Compiled RTPO TIP. Completed UPWP. Maintained BFCG website. Continued update of Federal Functional Classification System. Monitored the Regional Transportation Plan. Continued certification of transportation elements of city/county comprehensive plans. Organized a statewide All Weather Roads Forum attended by various RTPO's and other public and private agencies interested in the "farm to market" road networks; requested funding program from the legislature.

PROBLEMS: None

NEXT YEAR: Continue certification of jurisdictions' GMA transportation plans. Continue update of Functional Classification System. Continue GIS mapping efforts. Prepare progress reports for federal, state, and regional purposes. Complete RTPO TIP, UPWP etc.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$30,000	\$33,190	(-\$3,190)	110%	100%

CATEGORY 222 - RTP0 DATA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Compiled RTP0 Annual Traffic Report. Continued mapping to support all RTP0 functions. Completed traffic counts in multiple rural jurisdictions.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Continue updating GIS/CAD databases. Continue GIS/CAD mapping work. Continue collection and distribution of traffic count data. Continue data collection for highway and transit system to support on-going efforts for system management and benchmarks. Continue update on "Transportation Trends" report. Coordinate countywide freight/truck counts.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$16,034	\$2,420	\$13,614	15%	25%

CATEGORY 223 – LONG RANGE AND WTP PLANNING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Monitored the Commute Trip Reduction Program for the Tri-Cities area. Continuation of GMA related activities as outlined in the UPWP. Began the Columbia River Crossing Study (CRCS). Organized a statewide forum to further develop strategies for funding and prioritization of all-weather road systems.

PROBLEMS: None

NEXT YEAR: Assist with GMA activities. Continues developing strategies for funding and prioritization of all weather roads in the RTP0. Continue to manage/facilitate the Columbia River Crossing Study.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$56,333	\$56,278	\$55	100%	100%

FISCAL YEAR 2009
FHWA (PL)/FTA ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

WORK ELEMENT 220 - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Provided the administrative support needed to manage and coordinate the Tri-MATS Transportation Planning Program. The activities included in the task are: Supervision of staff, Preparation of meeting agendas and minutes, Record keeping, Preparation of reports, Grant management, Coordination of activities between Tri-MATS and other agencies, Public information, data gathering/dissemination, and attendance at meetings. Conducted regional meetings related to SAFETEA-LU. Certified MPO compliance with federal regulations. Attended Quarterly MPO meetings. Coordinated TDM/CTR meetings. Managed and tracked urban STP program. Monitored and administered regional STP and Transportation Enhancement projects and funding process. Provided education on TEA-4. Published monthly newsletter. Coordinated regional applications for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 projects.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR. The Program Management Work Element is a function of the overall Tri-MATS program, and consequently remains similar each year. Monitor progress of MPO TIP toward implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan. Monitor STP and Transportation Enhancement projects and processes. Continue monitoring of TDM/CTR activities. Conduct a Tri-Cities Transportation Survey.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$158,042	\$187,847	(\$-29,805)	118%	90%

WORK ELEMENT 221 - MPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Submitted Annual Report, UPWP, and TIP. Maintain a BFCG website providing access to all important documents, meeting notices, agendas, etc. Completed biannual "Customer Service" survey including all modes of service for Ben Franklin Transit. Completed RTPO "Status of Railroads" report.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Continue education updates on TEA 4. Maintain currency of website. Complete required Progress reports. Complete FTA/FHWA requirements. Other tasks as shown in UPWP. Monitor RTP. Assist Ben Franklin Transit in completing "Attitudes and Awareness" survey using all modes of service. Administer Human Services Coordination Grant Process for 2009-2011. Update the Non-motorized Bike/Pedestrian Plan for the RTPO.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$135,000	\$108,423	\$26,577	80%	75%

WORK ELEMENT 222 - MPO DATA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Continued updating and expanding GIS databases and building maps. Prepared Annual Traffic Report. Applied or assisted in the application of the 2006 Tri-Cities Area Traffic Model as needed. Assisted WSDOT Geographic Services Office in the WA TRANS project. Managed/facilitated Columbia River Crossing Study Committee for planning a site location study for a new Columbia River Bridge.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Continue GIS/CAD mapping. Continue traffic counts. Continue data collection for highway and transit system to support on-going efforts for system management and benchmarks. Update Transportation Trends Report. Update Tri-Cities Area Traffic Model for RTP. Continue development of strategies and funding for the Columbia River Crossing Study with WSDOT and other urban MPO jurisdictions.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$106,000	\$41,936	\$64,064	40%	50%

SUMMARY SHEET FOR TRI-MATS ANNUAL REPORT (FY '09)

FHWA

ITEM	TOTAL
Salaries	162,068.46
Miscellaneous	22,403.59
Total Direct Costs	184,472.05
Total Indirect Costs	213,998.20
TOTAL COSTS	398,470.25
Local Match	(60,995.08)
FHWA GRANT (\$328,103)	337,475.17

RTPO

ITEM	TOTAL
Salaries	84,348.55
Miscellaneous	4,565.10
Total Direct Costs	88,913.65
Total Indirect Costs	117,515.26
TOTAL COSTS	206,428.91
Local Match	(74,149.91)
RTPO GRANT (\$132,279)	132,279.00

TRI-MATS RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CALENDAR YEAR 2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tim Fife	545-3514	Franklin County Engineer/Public Works Director
Ross Dunfee	736-3084	Benton County Engineer/Public Works Director
Ed Frost	734-5107	BFT, Manager of Transit Development
Bob Alberts	545-3446	City of Pasco, Public Works Director
Steve Stairs	942-7504	City of Richland, Traffic Engineer
Roscoe Slade	967-7105	City of West Richland, Public Works Director
Randy Hayden	547-3378	Port of Pasco, Engineer
Bill Preston	577-1630	WSDOT Planning Engineer, Yakima
Roger Wright	366-7455	Port of Benton, Engineering Consultant
Dave Penfield	376-6234	Fluor Daniel Hanford, Traffic Engineering
Larry Peterson	586-1188	Port of Kennewick, Director of Planning and Development
Peter Beaudry, Chairman	585-4292	City of Kennewick, Public Works Director
L. J. DaCorsi	786-7336	City of Prosser, Public Works Director
VACANT		City of Connell
*Teresa Standridge	265-4253	City of Mesa, Clerk
Bob Spink	946-1581	City of Benton City, Engineering Consultant
*Sharon McCaleb	282-3372	City of Kahlotus, City Clerk
Randy Glaeser	524-2711	Walla Walla County Engineer/Public Works Director
Wrandoll Morua	527-4537	City of Walla Walla, City Engineer
Paul Hartwig	529-1200	City of College Place
Randy Hinchliffe	337-6371	City of Waitsburg, Clerk
Steve Myers		City of Prescott, Public Works Director
Paul Gerola	525-3100	Port of Walla Walla, Economic Development Director
Dick Fondahn, Vice Chair	525-9140 ext. 12	Valley Transit, Transit Manager
Mark Kushner	943-9185	BFCG/Staff, Transportation Director
**Bill Wiebe	705-7965	WSDOT Headquarters, Olympia (Planning)
**Jerry Ayers	705-7912	WSDOT Headquarters, Olympia (Transit)
** Roger Arms	577-1780	WSDOT Yakima (Local Programs)
Vacant		Battelle N.W.,

* City Clerk ** Ex-Officio Member

Updated March 3, 2008

TRI-MATS RTPO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CALENDAR YEAR 2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Jerome Delvin	(360) 786-7614	WA State Senate
*Mike Hewitt	527-4111	WA State Senate
*Mark Schoesler	659-1909	WA State Senate
*Maureen Walsh	509-200-1232	WA St. House of Representatives
*Bill Grant	529-4929	WA St. House of Representatives
*Steve Hailey	265-4282 (H)	WA St. House of Representatives
*Shirley Hankins	946-5406	WA St. House of Representatives
*David Buri	(509) 397-3919	WA St. House of Representatives
*Larry Haler	308-1957	WA St. House of Representatives
Dave Rose	946-5116(W)	City of Richland, Council Member
Leo Bowman, Vice Chair	736-3080	Benton County, Commissioner
Lynn Johnson	588-4531 (H)	Ben Franklin Transit, Board Member
Julie Jones	967-5771(H)	City of West Richland, Council Member
Bob Koch	545-3535 (W)	Franklin County, Commissioner
Bob Olson	586-9281 (W) 783-4472 (H)	City of Kennewick, Council Member
Bob Hoffmann	547-7373 (H)	City of Pasco, Council Member
Bill Clark	509-863-4702	Port of Pasco, Commissioner
Don Whitehouse	509-577-1620	WSDOT South Central Region, Administrator
Bob Larson	375-1547 (H)	Port of Benton, Commissioner
Randy Taylor, Chair	875-4367 (W)	City of Prosser, Council Member
Gene Wagner	783-6896 (H)	Port of Kennewick, Commissioner
Gary Walton	234-2701	City of Connell, Mayor
Patti Bailie	265-4259	City of Mesa, Mayor
Lloyd Carnahan	588-3430	City of Benton City, Council Member
Donna Fone	282-3372	City of Kahlotus, Mayor
Gregg Loney	527-3200 (W)	Walla Walla County, Commissioner
Jerry Cummins	525-8848	City of Walla Walla, Council Member
Rick Newby	527-6233	City of College Place, Council Member
Larry Johnson	337-6371	City of Waitsburg, Council Member

Elizabeth McCaw	849-2621	City of Prescott, Mayor
Fred Bennett	525-3455	Port of Walla Walla, Commissioner
David Carey	527-3200 (W) 525-9290 (H)	Valley Transit, Board Member
Carol Moser	627-5198 (H)	Washington State Trans. Commission
Staff - Mark Kushner	943-9185	BFCG, Transportation Director

* Ex-officio Member

Updated March 11,2008