



Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, & Whitman Counties

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PALOUSE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

FY 2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

The Boards of Commissioners of Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield Counties on January 16, 1991, established by resolution the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO). At the same time they took action designating the Palouse Economic Development Council (PEDC) as its lead planning agency. This was done under the provisions of the 1990 Growth Management Act. In July of 2003 Whitman County became a member of the PRTPO through an Interlocal Agreement signed by all four counties.

The jurisdiction of the PRTPO includes the geographic area within the boundaries of Asotin County, Washington; Columbia County, Washington; Garfield County, Washington; and Whitman County, Washington. In 2003, a Metropolitan Planning Organization was created which included the cities of Asotin and Clarkston and parts of Asotin County in addition to the City of Lewiston and its environs. Therefore, the cities of Asotin and Clarkston and Asotin County are considered adjunct members of the PRTPO and a close working relationship and coordinated planning effort is maintained with the Lewis Clark Valley MPO.

Transportation planning by nature is a long-term process. Many factors need to be considered, studies conducted, funding allocated and solutions designed before projects can be constructed. The purpose of the PRTPO is to facilitate the development of regionally based plans.

II. REGION'S KEY ISSUES

The Palouse region has important transportation issues that are unlike those found in more urbanized areas. Important issues in this region include improving economic vitality and providing access to jobs, recreational areas, medical services and social activities. Investments addressing these issues will produce large returns for the region.

The region has enjoyed a fairly balanced multi-modal system that includes river, rail, road, and air transportation. However, several factors affect the ability of the multi-modal system to service the economic and social needs of the region. The economic viability of the Snake River as a transportation system is being challenged, as are railroads with continuing rail line abandonment's. Both of these systems are critical in moving freight through the region. The third critical component, the road system, is also not adequate in many areas to support year-round trucking. Air service is another key component to the transportation infrastructure both in term of passenger and cargo capabilities.

The Palouse RTPO is supporting the efforts of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). In doing so we acknowledge the following planning emphasis areas, which are within the WTP, as important to the Palouse region and our transportation needs.

- **System Preservation** – is a key issue and vital to this region. Well-maintained roadway, rail, river and air systems are needed to connect Palouse communities and commerce with each other, the rest of the state and the world.
- **System Efficiencies** – optimizing the region's current transportation system so that it operates efficiently is important in the Palouse region.
- **Safety and Security** – many safety deficiencies in the Palouse RTPO are due to the area's challenging topography of rolling hills and river valleys resulting in poor sight distance. Narrow roadways, intersections with poor approach angles, steep slopes needing guardrails are examples of safety issues.
- **Transportation Access** – the region has a limited level of basic public transportation services for its residents. There is a need to increase the level of service to provide access to job opportunities, social and medical services.
- **Funding and Regionalism** – Limited funding has become a growing problem with rules and regulations increasing the cost of construction and compliance.
- **Health and the Environment** – The Palouse region continues to promote healthy communities and a well-protected environment through its transportation program.
- **Bottlenecks and Chokepoints** – although the Palouse RTPO can not compete with highly urbanized areas for congestion related funding, congestion is still a growing problem. There are several opportunities for low cost investments in this region that can have significant returns.
- **Strong Economy and Good Jobs** – economic vitality is a key issue in the Palouse region. The region's economy has not kept up with the rest of Washington State. It is important to recognize and capitalize on the relationship between transportation and economic development.
- **Freight Mobility** – all weather roads, a navigable river system and an efficient rail system are critical to the movement of freight into and out of the Palouse region. Access to air freight is also becoming more important to the region as it diversifies its economy.

- **Building Future Visions** – the PRTPO is developing a vision of its transportation system for the future. This will provide opportunities for inclusion in the planning and project proposal process.

III. UPWP WORK ELEMENTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Purpose/function. As the lead planning agency, PEDC will provide management for the regional transportation planning process.
2. Work tasks.
 - a. Arrange personnel activities, training, conferences, and clerical support.
 - b. Schedule and facilitate meetings of the PRTPO to review, address and decide issues of significance to the regional transportation system.
 - c. Provide on-going communication and coordination channels between the PRTPO and the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT).
 - d. Provide on-going communication coordination channels between the PRTPO and the Lewis Clark Valley MPO.
 - e. Provide opportunities for citizen participation to insure that transportation planning efforts are consistent with public interest, and participation is continuous throughout the planning process.
 - f. Provide administrative support for the Palouse RTPO Technical Committee and Policy Board.
 - g. Develop, negotiate, and manage consulting contract opportunities such as Road Standards and Public Transit Planning Grants.
 - h. Coordinate and manage funding priorities such as Transportation Enhancement Grants.
3. Work products. PRTPO meetings, meeting minutes, payroll, dissemination of transportation information, correspondence, public notices, the hiring of specialized planning consultants, Title VI compliance, and other administrative duties as necessary.
4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC.
5.

| <u>RTPO REVENUES</u> | <u>STP REVENUES</u> | <u>WTP REVENUES</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| \$ 27,000.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 27,000.00 |

B. PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

1. Purpose/function. To insure the adequate and proper documentation of the PRTPO process.
2. Work tasks.
 - a. Prepare the UPWP and regional TIP; annual report; amendments to the UPWP and TIP; environmental documents; file correspondence records, public meeting notices, reports, and regional data; update financial planning process; compliance with RCW 47.80; and other documentation required by DOT.
 - b. Continue utilizing the services of a consultant to develop a set of planning guidelines and standards for roadways and transportation/traffic analysis. This common set of guidelines and standards will enable each county or city

within the region to construct a unique set of criteria for their jurisdiction and still be coordinated with others within the region. The development and adoption by the RTPO board will be completed by June 2007.

- c. Utilize the Public Transportation Grant Planning process to convene stakeholder group, gather data and information, identify unmet transportation needs and transportation alternatives.
- 3. Work products. A Public Transit/Human Service Plan, UPWP, annual report, STIP, a review and update of the four county RTP, correspondence, notices, collection of regional data and other documentation, and updates as needed. A set of planning guidelines and standards for roadway design and transportation/traffic analysis will be developed and adopted in 2006-7.
- 4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC
- 5.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>RTPO REVENUES</u> | <u>STP REVENUES</u> | <u>WTP REVENUES</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
| \$ 23,849.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 23,849.00 |

C. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- 1. Purpose/function. Maintain and perform the duties of the PRTPO.
- 2. Work tasks.
 - a. Continue the coordination of transportation planning among region jurisdictions, including the relationship between regional transportation planning, local comprehensive planning and state transportation planning.
 - b. Provide planning guidelines and standards for roadway design and transportation/traffic analysis to cities and counties within the Palouse RTPO for their use.
 - c. Coordinate the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into the transportation planning process.
 - d. Encourage the development of a transportation plan, which supports regional economic development.
 - e. Establish and implement a procedure for the solicitation, collection, prioritization and processing of Transportation Enhancement Projects.
 - f. Continue implementation of transportation and growth management planning to include:
 - 1. Consistency between the transportation element of adopted comprehensive plans and the adopted regional transportation plan.
 - 2. Inclusion of “transportation facilities and services of statewide significance” and their improvements in regional and local plans, and as adopted in the WTP.
 - 3. Review level of service methodologies used by cities and counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW to promote a consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and corridors.
 - 4. Periodic updates, from local governments, on what impacts are expected to state highways from future land use changes.
 - g. Include “least cost planning” methodology in all PRTPO activities (after methodology is determined by WSDOT).

- h. Insure that the regional transportation plan addresses the regional corridors and associated intermodal connections associated with issues of statewide intercity mobility services.
- i. Review local jurisdiction and transit plans for consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan.
- j. Participate in region or national training opportunities to learn best practices.
- k. Coordinate plans and planning process with LCVMPO.
- l. Monitor and participate where appropriate with key federal Planning Emphasis Areas, which include:
 - 1. Incorporating Safety and Security in the transportation planning process.
 - 2. Planning for Transit Systems Management/Operations to Increase Ridership.
 - 3. Supporting Transit Capital Investment Decisions through Effective System Planning.
 - 4. Coordination of Non-Emergency Human Service Transportation.
- 3. Work products.
 - a. Mail out meeting notices, agendas, and other material to all TPB and TAC members as needed.
 - b. Prepare news items for the media concerning the regional transportation planning process.
 - c. Prioritize Transportation Enhancement Projects submitted to the State Enhancement Committee.
- 4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC
- 5.

| <u>RTPO REVENUES</u> | <u>STP REVENUES</u> | <u>WTP REVENUES</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| \$ 16,000.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 16,000.00 |

D. DATA COLLECTION/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- 1. Purpose/function. Work with member counties to provide for the collection of data that is pertinent to the Regional Transportation Plan, and to provide technical assistance as needed.
- 2. Work tasks.
 - a. Assist member counties in maintaining data collection and information services systems to implement and support the regional transportation planning process.
 - b. Identify and utilize regional and local studies as necessary for analysis of transportation issues within the region using appropriate technical methods as established by state and federal guidelines and policies.
 - c. Identify new funding sources for identified deficiencies within the region.
- 3. Work products. Road log data, accident reports studies, population and employment data, TIPs, Regional Deficiency/TIP Comparison Matrix, all data needed for the RTP, etc.
- 4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC
- 5.

| <u>RTPO REVENUES</u> | <u>STP REVENUES</u> | <u>WTP REVENUES</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |

E. STP PLANNING

1. Purpose/function. To provide transportation planning within the RTPO area.
2. Work tasks.
 - a. Hire a consultant, if needed, to assist with the function and planning of the PRTPO.
 - b. Pay travel expenses of designated PRTPO members who attend regional or national meetings.
 - c. The PRTPO has \$28,058.00 for regional planning which requires a 13.5% local match.
3. Work products. PRTPO planning projects and the implementation of enhancement projects.
4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC
5.

| <u>RTPO REVENUES</u> | <u>STP REVENUES</u> | <u>WTP REVENUES</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| \$ 0.00 | \$ 28,058.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 28,058.00 |

F. WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN (WTP)

1. Purpose/function. Participate in the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) update development.
2. Work tasks.
 - a. Hire a consultant, if needed, to prepare data and written materials about the Palouse RTPO region to be used in the updated WTP plan.
 - b. Participate in the development and review of proposed WTP Areas of Targeted Investment by Issue Area including:
 1. Preservation
 2. Safety
 3. Transportation Access
 4. Economy/Jobs
 5. Moving Freight
 6. Health and Environment
 7. System Efficiency
 8. Bottlenecks and Chokepoints
 9. Future Visions
 - c. Participate in prioritization workshops with WSDOT and the Transportation Commission.
 - d. Participate in on-going program workshops and meetings with WSDOT and the Transportation Commission.
 - e. Review draft and final of 10-year investment plans.
 - f. Preparation of data and written materials about our region to be used to update the WTP.
 - g. Review and comment on materials prepared by others to be used in the plan.
 - h. Participate at meetings in support of the plan and background papers.
 - i. Coordinate with cities, counties, ports and other local and regional transportation agencies to develop data and compile adopted needs for the WTP including:

- (1) County road and city street needs,
 - (2) Transit needs,
 - (3) Airport needs,
 - (4) Non-motorized needs,
 - (5) Port, marine/river navigation and other freight needs.
 - j. Participate in the WTP public involvement process including development, promotion and hosting of WTP public forums for our region.
 - k. Consult with WSDOT in development of performance measures to track plan accomplishments.
 - l. Coordinate the Palouse RTP, when updated, with the themes, schedules and programs identified in the WTP.
 - m. Communicate with and educate legislators and other decision makers in the Palouse RTPO region on the WTP.
 - n. Coordinate plans and planning process for the use of \$8,000 with the LCVMPPO.
 - o. Develop joint project with LCVMPPO to address transportation issues impacting joint planning area of the cities of Clarkston and Asotin.
 - p. Contribute, where appropriate to the discussion of GMA, its intended implications for transportation and the major issues arising as a result of its implementation.
3. Work products
- a. An updated WTP with the Palouse RTPO region being fully represented therein.
4. Agency assigned to complete task. PEDC
5. RTPO REVENUES STP REVENUES WTP REVENUES EXPENSES
 \$ 0.00 \$ 0.00 \$ 24,605.00 \$ 24,605.00

G. FUNDING SUMMARY BY ELEMENT

| ELEMENT | RTPO | STP | WTP |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Administration | \$ 27,000.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Planning Documentation | 23,849.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Regional Trans. Plan. Org. | 16,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Data Collection/Tech Asst. | 6,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| STP Planning | 0.00 | 28,058.00 | 0.00 |
| WTP Planning | 0.00 | 0.00 | 24,605.00 |
| TOTALS | \$ 72,849.00 | \$ 28,058.00 | \$ 24,605.00 |

APPENDIX A

PALOUSE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The following individuals are involved in the PRTPO planning process:

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

1. Asotin County..... Doug Mattoon, County Commissioner
2. Columbia County..... Dwight Robanske County Commissioner
3. Garfield County.....Dean Burton, County Commissioner
4. Whitman County.....Jerry Finch, County Commissioner
5. Pomeroy, City of.....Alan Gould, Mayor
6. Colfax, City of..... Norma Becker Mayor
7. Dayton, City of..... Clark Posey, Planning Director
8. Pullman, City ofFrancis Benjamin, City Councilperson
8. Clarkston, Port of..... Rick Davis, Manager
9. Columbia, Port of..... Gene Turner, Manager
10. Garfield, Port of.....Lora Brazell, Manager
11. Whitman, Port of Bob Gronholz, Port Commissioner
12. Dept of Transportation..... Don Whitehouse, SC Region Administrator
13. Dept. of Transportation.....Jerry Lenzi, Eastern Region Administrator

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Asotin County.....Joel Ristau, County Engineer
2. Columbia County.....Drew Woods, County Engineer
3. Garfield County.....Grant Morgan, County Engineer
4. Whitman County.....Dane Dunford, Public Works Director
5. Whitman County.....Mark Storey, County Engineer
6. Clarkston, City of..... Jim Martin, Public Works Director
7. Pullman, City of..... Mark Workman, Public Works Director
8. Dept. of Transportation..... Bill Preston, SC Regional Planning Engineer
9. Dept. of Transportation.....Mark Rohwer, Eastern Reg. Planning Engineer
10. Palouse EDC..... Ken Olson, PEDC Executive Director

APPENDIX B

**PALOUSE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZATION CHART**

APPENDIX C

**MAP
OF
PALOUSE REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN AREA**