



Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties

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FINAL PROGRESS REPORT FY 2009 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

The Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) serves the southeastern Washington counties of Asotin, Columbia, Garfield and Whitman. This Final Progress Report for the 2009 fiscal year covers the Unified Planning Work Program Elements adopted at the beginning of the year.

A. ADMINISTRATION:

The Palouse RTPO uses the Southeast Washington Economic Development Association (SEWEDA) – formerly Palouse Economic Development Council - as its lead planning agency. As such, SEWEDA provides management services for the PRTPO.

During the past year there were six PRTPO Policy Board meetings held throughout the region. In addition, there have been several technical advisory committee meetings held to identify and prioritize which planning projects would provide the most benefit to our Region this biennium.

Administratively the PRTPO has been involved in organizing the various Policy Board and technical committee meetings. Those meetings required organization, notification, room arrangements, agendas, food service, minutes, and other administrative services.

Activity around consultant selection and contracting opportunities involving the Transportation Funding Guide completion required administrative attention.

SEWEDA's Executive Director position serves as the PRTPO Director, and other staff members provide bookkeeping, administrative, research, and web maintenance services. All are paid accordingly through the WSDOT RTPO Grant. Appropriate office expenses are also paid by said grant.

The Palouse RTPO Director attended Statewide RTPO/MPO Coordinating Committee meetings, filed the required reports with WSDOT, and administered contracting procedures in the fulfillment of the work items. PRTPO staff also attended various transportation-related conferences throughout the year.

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The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for fiscal year 2009 was reviewed, updated and amended. All amendments were authorized by the Board and submitted for WSDOT approval. A 2010 UPWP was developed, adopted by the Policy Board, then submitted and approved by WSDOT. All meeting minutes, correspondence, bookkeeping records, and documentation of expenses have been maintained on a regular and consistent basis.

We continue to build on the relationship which has been formed with the Lewis Clark Metropolitan Planning Organization. Meeting notices, agendas, and minutes are shared between the two organizations. Sharing of work plans and data occurs to facilitate better planning and the avoidance of duplication. The PRTPO attends MPO meetings as able.

The PRTPO will continue to identify ways to include productive public input in its process. Many interested parties are routinely notified of PRTPO meetings and attend regularly.

The PRTPO put out a call for transportation related stimulus projects, collected and organized project lists for each community/county and submitted the list to the State of Washington.

B. REGIONAL AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING:

Coordination work also continues in areas such as the movement of freight, on rail, barge, and highways. The PRTPO also facilitated the identification and implementation of enhancement programs, and is contributing toward efforts to create a region-wide GIS system to assist in transportation planning activities.

A review was conducted to ensure both Garfield and Columbia Counties' current GMA comp plan revisions demonstrate consistency with regional transportation issues. Six-Year TIP information was collected from the various jurisdictions throughout the region, processed, and submitted to the DOT as requested.

During the year, agendas, minutes and other materials were sent to policy board members and technical committee members. The election of officers retained the existing slate of officers. An update to the 5-year Regional Transportation Plan will be completed under the next UPWP (09-10).

C. WTP & LONG-RANGE PLANNING:

The Palouse Economic Development Council (now SEWEDA) completed its 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in 2008, with a supplemental annual update in 2009. The document contains a transportation element, which utilized the RTP as the main source of transportation information. This coordination creates consistency among regional documents.

The PRTPO and the LCVMPPO continue to work together and exchange information. Both share their meeting announcements, agendas and work plans. Where efficiencies can be

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maximized, combined efforts are pursued. A portion of WTP funds were directed to the LCVMPPO for the purchase of GIS software and hardware.

A consultant was hired and a Comprehensive Guide to Resources for Funding Transportation Projects was completed. A copy of this document is being forwarded to the WSDOT.

Traffic counters were purchased and are being utilized throughout the region.

D. DATA COLLECTION/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

The RTPO continues to assist member counties in maintaining data and information to support regional transportation planning. This is done through the collection of population and employment figures, cataloging of TIPs, and maintaining the RTP. The traffic counters will supply beneficial utilization data.

In addition to the original contracted work tasks, an amendment to the UPWP was approved prior to the end of the period and included the purchase of aerial photography through the Statewide Aerial Collect in partnership with the National Agriculture Image Program. The program included a 1 meter per pixel (digital flight) and infrared flight images.

E. STP FUNDED PLANNING:

STP funds were coupled with WTP funds to assist in long-range planning activities including the purchase of traffic counters and providing for the consultant selected to develop the comprehensive guide for funding transportation projects.

The RTPO has participated in the quarterly Coordinating Committee meetings, which provide WTP updates and keep us informed as to WTP process.

F. FUNDING

Total carryover for the next cycle is \$1,549.00 in STP funds.

Managed by:

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