August 7, 2017

Mayor Frank Cox
City of Stevenson
P.O. Box 371
Stevenson, WA 98664

Mr. Nick Hogan
City Administrator
City of Stevenson
P.O. Box 371
Stevenson, WA 98664

Dear Mayor Cox and Mr. Hogan:

RE: RTC - Agency Celebrates 25 Years

As a member and partner to the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), I am honored to share with you a copy of a recently published report highlighting some of the work accomplished within the RTC region over the past 25 years.

Formed in July 1992, RTC celebrates 25 years of regional transportation project planning and grant funding within Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties. Over the course of the last 25 years, the three-county RTC region has changed a lot, growing from nearly 290K to over 490K population. In response to that community growth, RTC has distributed over $230 Million in grant funding for investments and has led many key planning efforts to advance multi-modal transportation projects across the three counties.

At this time of reflection, I wanted to personally thank your agency for its partnership with RTC. As a member-led agency, the work of staff, the Board and member agencies is designed to uplift the entirety of our three-county region.

Enclosed are copies of the Report for your review and also for distribution to other members of your elected body. Further, I would be pleased to meet with you and your governing board to share these results and to discuss the future at any time that is convenient for your agency. You can reach me at: matt.ransom@RTC.wa.gov; or 360-397-6067 x5208. I would enjoy hearing from you.

Warmest Regards,

Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Enclosure
RTC’s 25 year legacy of good planning and technical analyses has resulted in significant federal and state investments in our transportation system. The resulting balance of road, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements has laid the foundation for a strong economy and vibrant neighborhoods for the region’s future.

—Jeff Hamm, C-TRAN, Executive Director/CEO

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In 2017, RTC celebrates 25 years of regional transportation collaboration across Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties. This report is both a reflection on achievements and a recognition of the member agencies' partnership in planning and funding transportation projects.

Most people never think about the cooperation required to manage transportation throughout a region. Who’s responsible for which roads, which signals, even maintenance? Although member agencies each serve their own constituents, our partnerships are essential in providing a smart, sustainable transportation system for every person and every business in our region.

RTC’s work and funding has benefited all three counties, each of which addressed many growth-related challenges over the years.

Going forward, our region will face many more needs and find many more opportunities. My hope is that, as a collection of agencies committed to community progress and investment, we continue to peer over the horizon to see what projects need to be done, then work collectively to put those ideas into action.

I look forward to that challenge.

Warmest regards,

Matt Ransom, AICP
Executive Director
HISTORY & FUNCTIONS OF RTC

As a member organization, RTC derives its strength from committed partners across 24 agencies. Together, our work includes thoughtful planning, evaluation, and debate, which produces regional consensus and allocates federal and state funding to essential transportation mobility projects.

RTC’s Roots

Although our region had fostered decades of coordinated public-private partnerships and shared decision-making, RTC’s first incarnation appeared in the 1960s. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 required a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) be created for urbanized areas of 50,000 or more residents. Made up of county government representatives, MPOs existed to sign-off on regional transportation plans, ensuring that federal dollars were spent wisely. Our community’s first MPO was a bi-state coalition of the greater Portland-Vancouver areas.

By the 1970s, Clark County had formed its own MPO, and in 1990 the county joined with Klickitat and Skamania counties to form a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), a new entity required by Washington State’s Growth Management law.

Responding to a 1991 federal law, the organization already serving as both MPO and RTPO took on new responsibilities as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The TMA was established by its member agencies on July 1, 1992. Named the Southwest Washington RTC, the TMA would address Clark County’s growing transportation needs.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Nearly $233 million in federal transportation dollars have helped build our community over these last 25 years. Take a look at where those dollars went.

Funding by Phase (1992-2017)

Although the vast majority of funds directly support construction, purchasing right-of-way and planning/engineering are significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning/Engineering</td>
<td>$37,995,900</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-of-Way Purchases</td>
<td>$24,366,100</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$170,590,205</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,952,205</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Funding by Type of Project

Most funding goes to major asset projects. However, RTC funds a wide range of projects, including supporting important community assets, like the past Vancouver Amtrak station rehabilitation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roadway Improvements</td>
<td>$131,232,000</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit Improvements</td>
<td>$31,499,200</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Signals &amp; Tech Upgrades</td>
<td>$29,695,200</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike/Pedestrian</td>
<td>$20,592,572</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning/Project Development</td>
<td>$9,766,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavement Preservation</td>
<td>$6,414,582</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail Upgrades</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement Projects</td>
<td>$1,252,651</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,952,205</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1992
- RTC created as Clark County’s Metropolitan Planning Organization, as designated by Governor Booth Gardner

1993
- Performance monitoring begins with Congestion Management System
- Traffic Count Data collection program begins (Clark County)

1995
- First Regional Transportation Plan for Skamania County
- First Regional Transportation Plan for Klickitat County

1996
- I-205 & East-West Arterials Study recommends new Interchanges on I-205

1997
- SR-14 Corridor Management Route Development Plan (created with WSDOT)

1998
- Regional High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Study

2000
- First annual multi-modal Congestion Management System Report

2001
- RTC publishes the vision for Intelligent Transportation System Initiatives Report for in Clark County known as the VAST Program, Vancouver Area Smart Trek, Final Report

2004
- SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Feasibility Study Final Report
- Transportation Corridor Visioning Study
- Clark County High Capacity Transit System Study

2007
- First Human Services Transportation Plan adopted
- I-205 Access & Operations Study

2008
- Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area attains federal requirements for both air quality and reducing mobile emissions of carbon monoxide

2014
- I-205 Access & Operations Study

2017
- As of mid-2017, 4 projects and studies are in progress
A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED | 1992-2017

Remember the world of 1992? We bought music on CDs, Johnny Carson ruled late night, and almost no one knew about Y2K. Twenty-five years seems like both a long time and no time at all. Our own community experienced tremendous growth, much of which was supported by the work of RTC and its member agencies.

Clark County

Since 1992, both population and jobs have nearly doubled across the community, hastening a transition from bedroom community to bustling, urban county. Congestion has increased faster than our ability to add transportation systems’ capacity.

Klickitat and Skamania counties

These communities have grown modestly by comparison. The beauty of the Gorge attracts even more visitors, offering new opportunities for community improvement and growth. Service sector growth has led the way, though changes to national forestry policy, Gorge Scenic Area management, and the regional economy have also brought significant changes. Regional corridors are under strain, requiring a careful balance between recreational and industry mobility.
LOOKING TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Nearly $233 million in federal transportation dollars have helped build our community over these last 25 years. The next 25 will bring us new challenges, new technologies and new ideas as we continue to collaborate in serving our community. Here are a few projects we’re working on now.

2018 Regional Transportation Plan update

RTC and member agencies have entered their latest phase in updating the long-range Regional Transportation Plan. The 2016 update will identify the investments most critical in preparing this region to remain economically competitive—without sacrificing quality of life for businesses and residents—over the next 20 years.

Pressing issues include:
- Rapidly evolving transportation services, like connected and autonomous vehicle systems
- Need to accelerate decision making and funding for key regional investments, like the I-5 bridge replacement and corridor enhancements
- Growing urbanization of Clark County in the context of a rapidly growing Portland/Vancouver bi-state metropolitan area

"Transportation systems by their nature are regional in scope. For 25 years, RTC’s Board of Directors has guided the development of a great transportation network to support SW Washington’s fast paced needs. For the future, regional partners will need continued cooperation, matched by an equal force of innovation."

—Dean Lookingbill, RTC Director (1992-2013)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS | JUNE 2017

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Klickitat County
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