

## Regulatory Requirements

State and Federal guidelines stipulate the elements and processes for creating and maintaining the Regional Transportation Plan. In many instances, the requirements overlap, emphasizing the connection between state and federal regulation and goals.

### Federal Requirements for the RTP

Develop a transportation plan addressing at least a 20-year planning horizon. The plan shall:

- Include both long-range and short-range strategies and actions that lead to the systematic development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, and addresses current and future transportation demand.
- Be reviewed and updated every three years in maintenance areas to confirm its validity and its consistency with current and forecasted transportation and land use conditions and trends, and to extend the forecast period.
- Identify the projected transportation demand of persons and goods in the metropolitan planning area over the period of the plan.
- Identify adopted management and operations strategies (e.g., traveler information, traffic surveillance and control, incident and emergency response, freight routing, pricing, public transportation management, travel demand management, telecommuting, parking management, and intermodal connectivity) that address the need for improved system performance and delivery of services to users under varying conditions.
- Identify pedestrian walkway and bicycle transportation facilities.
- Assess capital investment and other measures necessary to preserve the existing transportation system (including operational improvements, resurfacing, and rehabilitation of existing and future roadways and transit facilities).
- Describe all proposed projects in sufficient detail to develop cost estimates. Reflect a multimodal evaluation of the transportation, socioeconomic, environmental, and financial impact of the overall plan.

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- Reflect comprehensive long-range land use plans and development objectives; state and local housing goals and strategies, community development and employment plans and strategies, and environmental resource plans; work force training and mobility plans and strategies; energy conservation goals; and the metropolitan area's overall social, economic, and environmental goals and objectives.
- Indicate proposed transportation enhancement activities.
- Include a financial plan that demonstrates the consistency of proposed transportation investments with already available and projected sources of revenue. The financial plan shall compare estimated revenue from existing and proposed funding sources that can reasonably be expected to be available for transportation uses, and the estimated costs of constructing, maintaining, and operating the total (existing plus planned) transportation system over the period of the plan. Financial estimates shall be developed in cooperation among the MPO, WSDOT, and transit operators. Local, state, and federal revenue estimates will be developed, and any shortfalls identified. Proposed new revenues to cover shortfalls shall be identified, including strategies for ensuring their availability for proposed investments. Existing and proposed revenues shall cover all forecasted capital, operating, management, and maintenance costs.
- Include an air quality conformity analysis ascertaining that the projects, programs, and services identified in the long-range plan will not cause the region to exceed its maintenance area motor vehicle emissions budget of 776.36 tons/year for PM10 (particulate matter).
- Include an ITS integration strategy for the purposes of guiding and coordinating the management and funding of ITS investments supported with FHWA funds to achieve an integrated regional system. The strategy will clearly assess existing and future ITS projects that affect regional integration of the ITS system, and identify projects which directly support national interoperability.

In addition, the plan shall provide adequate opportunity for public, official and citizen involvement in development of the plan before MPO approval. Prepare technical and other reports to assure

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documentation of the development, refinement, and update of the transportation plan, and make these reports reasonably available to interested parties.

## State Requirements for the RTP

Prepare and periodically update a regional transportation plan that is consistent with county-wide planning policies. The plan shall:

- Identify existing or planned transportation facilities, services, and programs, including both capital and non-capital programs and services, regardless of mode.
- Establish level of service standards, at a minimum, for all state highways other than those of statewide significance, and state ferries, if applicable.
- Build upon applicable portions of existing local comprehensive plans and processes, and promote a regional perspective into the local comprehensive planning process.
- Use regionally coordinated, valid and consistent technical methods and data to identify and analyze needs and future travel demands based on common regional assumptions about growth, population, employment, and mode split, that recognize planning requirements of the GMA, and which are consistent with population forecasts prepared by the Office of Financial Management.
- Describe performance measures for use in evaluating the regional transportation system over time and assessing effectiveness of plan implementation measures.
- Assess regional development patterns, capital investment, and other measures necessary to ensure preservation of the existing and future regional transportation system (operations, resurfacing, rehabilitation) for roads, transit, non-motorized facilities, and rail corridors as applicable.
- Assess regional development patterns, capital investments, and other measures necessary to make the most efficient use of existing transportation facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the mobility of people and goods.
- Set forth a proposed regional transportation approach, including capital investments, service improvements, programs, and travel demand management measures to guide

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development of an integrated, multimodal regional transportation system. The plan shall identify priority levels for these investments to guide local jurisdictions and the state in implementation of the plan.

- Consider environmental impacts related to development of the regional transportation policies and facilities.
- Include a financial plan demonstrating how the regional transportation plan can be implemented, indicating resources from public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan, and recommending any innovative financing techniques if necessary. If funding is insufficient, the region must at least reassess regional transportation strategies to ensure that transportation needs fall within probable funding levels.
- Assure conformity with Washington Clean Air Act requirements by demonstrating that the aggregate impact of all projects, programs, and services identified in the long-range plan for implementation does not exceed the maintenance area motor vehicle emissions budget of 776.36 tons/year for PM10.
- Be based on a least cost planning methodology appropriate to the region that identifies the most cost effective facilities, services, and programs.
- Be reviewed biennially for currency.

All transportation projects, programs, and travel demand management measures within the region that have an impact on regional facilities or services must be consistent with the plan and with the adopted regional growth and transportation strategies.