

CHAPTER ELEVEN - PUBLIC and AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEWS

In compliance with 23 CFR Section 450.316(b), the BFCG in July 1994 adopted “Public Involvement Procedures for Transportation Planning” (last updated in 2003). The proactive process for development of plans and programs affords opportunity for participation by public agencies and officials, private citizens, special interest groups, community groups and organizations, minority groups, and private transportation providers.

Each regional agency/jurisdiction was afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan in December 2005 (Chapters 1-4) and July 2006 (entire document). They were specifically requested to review the defined level of service deficiencies and the project listings for consistency with their six-year Transportation Improvement Programs. Simultaneous reviews were made by WSDOT (region and Olympia), the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and agencies responsible for environmental protection, wildlife management, land management, and historic preservation.

These agency reviews provided many constructive comments and suggestions beneficial to refining and improving the draft plan.

BFCG staff notified jurisdictions of availability to do presentations to their councils, boards, and commissions.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Paid advertisements were published in the Tri-City Herald and the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. The advertisements announced the public open houses in the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla and also availability of the Draft RTP for public review and comment at local libraries and city halls and also on the BFCG website (www.benton-franklin.cog.wa.us). Both newspapers also published general interest items on two separate occasions, addressing the same information. (Example follows.) The public open houses included displays of maps and a 30-minute Power Point presentation with printed handouts to all who attended.

Local elected officials were individually notified by letter of the public open houses. A general notice was mailed to local media, state and federal legislators, federal agencies, regional associations, schools, ports, transportation providers, chambers of commerce, service organizations, emergency service providers, bicycle groups and advocates, private industry, and unions.

The September 19 Tri-Cities open house was attended by eight (8) individuals. The September 26 open house in Walla Walla was attended by eleven (11) individuals. An August open house was held in the Tri-Cities for the regional six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Draft Regional Transportation Plan.

TIP/RTP
ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

June 29	Draft RTP to TAC & Regional Planners for Review Draft RTP to WSDOT, FHWA, FTA, Others
July 17	Executive Summary to Mayors & Others Offer for Oral Presentations in Aug./Sept./Oct.
July 7	Draft RTP to PAC for Review
July 21	TAC/PAC, WSDOT, FHWA, FTA, Other Review Comments Due at BFCG Update Draft RTP per Review Comments
July 28	TIP/RTP Advertisement & Gen. Interest Item to Media
Aug. 1	Draft RTP to Libraries, City Halls, BFCG Website
Aug. 2	Media Advertise TIP/RTP Open House
Aug. 9	TIP/RTP Open House at Kennewick Library
Aug. 18	TIP Comments Due at BFCG
Aug. 31	RTP Advertisement & Gen. Interest Item to Media
Aug 31	Flyer to Assorted (electeds, stakeholders, etc.)
Aug 31	BFCG Newsletter Item
Sept. Agenda	Tri-MATS & Board Review Draft TIP
Sept. 9 & 14	Media Advertise Tri City RTP Open House
Sept. 15	RTP Presentation to BFCG Board
Sept. 21	RTP Open House, Tri-Cities (BENTON PUD AUDITORIUM)
Sept. 12 & 19	Media Advertise Walla Walla RTP Open House
Sept. 26	RTP Open House, Walla Walla (WALLA WALLA REGIONAL AIRPORT)
Oct. Agenda	TIP Approval
Oct. 6	Written Public Comments on RTP Due at BFCG
Nov. Agenda	RTP Approval
Nov.	Print/Mail RTP Final Copies

(Open house paid advertisement and general interest news items)

The following pages are the comments made regarding the Regional Transportation Plan during the public review period beginning in July 2006 and ending October 6, 2006.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

From: Stecker, Sidney [mailto:Sidney.Stecker@fhwa.dot.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2006 1:36 PM
To: mark-bfcog@transedge.com
Subject: BFCoGDraftMTP Comments

Mark,

After an exhaustive review I have the following comments:

1. Any completed Plan is a good plan but I think this one is most excellent.
2. The safety section does an excellent job of identifying safety issues and programs in your region but it doesn't tell me how those issues and programs affect the planning process and the overall prioritization and selection of projects.
3. The Transportation section more than adequately describes the state of preparedness in your region and I believe it meets the SAFETEA-LU requirement. One statement (page 1-34 top) claims that WSDOT has completed an assessment of critical facilities. Does that include all facilities or just State facilities? **RTPO RESPONSE: State Facilities.**
4. The discussion of public involvement doesn't appear to address "visualization", did I miss it? **RTPO RESPONSE: Added in Chapter Eleven.**
5. I didn't find any reference to "a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities and potentially impacted areas" Is it in there? **RTPO RESPONSE: Added in Chapter One.**

Other than that I think it looks pretty good. Give me a call either today before 4pm or next week if you want to talk about it.

Sid

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

From: Wiebe, Bill [mailto:WiebeB@WSDOT.WA.GOV]
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2006 8:53 AM
To: Kushner, Mark; len-bfcog@transedge.com
Subject: BFCG RTP Comments

My apologies for taking so long to respond. The plan looks good.

I have added a few editorials for your consideration.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to review.

Page 1-4 for our consideration the 2003 population estimate for Milton Freewater is 6500. This and the population forecast for WW and College Place may make the area a MPO as a result of the 2010 census depending how the US. Census Bureau adds in the jumps and connections.

RTPO RESPONSE: After discussions with the Umatilla County Planning Department, it is doubtful the requisite density will be achieved between doubt the density Milton Freewater and Walla Walla-College Place by 2010.

Page 1-16 according to Ralph we still have a Transportation Policy Plan however, it is being rolled up in the WTP. I checked the WSDOT internet site and found no reference to the Transportation Policy Plan so I go along with Ralph's comment.

RTPO RESPONSE: Section referring to "Transportation Policy Plan" deleted.

Page 1-27 3rd paragraph from bottom sounds like the decease people were deceased before the accident. **RTPO RESPONSE: Changed**

Page 1-30 please include the source and date for the table at the bottom of the page.
RTPO RESPONSE: Added.

Page 2-6 Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) the whole paragraph – can it be simplified. Beginning with the Therein, it is one long sentence. **RTPO RESPONSE: Edited.**

Page 2-8 Stampede Pass Rail Impacts. Please include that the rail traffic goes through the Tri-cities which will support your comments about congestion and delay.
RTPO RESPONSE: Edited.

Pages 2-11 Tables 2.2 and 2.3. Please add the source and date.
RTPO RESPONSE: Done.

Page 2-13 tables 2.5 and 2.6 please add source and date. **RTPO RESPONSE: Done**

Page 3-4 second sentence. Is the word Curtail too strong?
RTPO RESPONSE: Changed to “reduce”.

Page 3/6 second action strategy distribute SCP material to urban engineers and planners. How about including the rural engineers and planners as well.
RTPO RESPONSE: Changed.

Page 3-9 Policy 10. Please reference the date of the adopted Public Participation Plan.
RTPO RESPONSE: Done.

Page 3-17 5th paragraph. Please mention minimum depth. Please check with Ken Olson at Palouse RTPO to be consistent with them. **RTPO RESPONSE: Done.**

Pages 4-34 and 4-35 in reference to gross ton-miles please check the figures for UP and Blue Mountain Railroad. 20 million and 5 million. On the surface it sounds like the UP is relatively small and the BM is relative large. **RTPO RESPONSE: Working on it.**

Page 8-2 please add source and date to the table. **RTPO RESPONSE: Done**

Chapter 11. Please reference or add a copy of the Public Participation Plan.
RTPO RESPONSE: Added.

CITY OF RICHLAND ENGINEERING LETTER

CHAPTER ELEVEN
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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