

**WSDOT Recommendation to Secretary Hammond
for the
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments
Metropolitan Planning Organization
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
“ARRA”
2009-2012
Transportation Improvement Program
Amendment #4 for March 2009**

FINDINGS

TIME FRAME:

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments’ (CWCOG’s) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment #4 adds one ARRA funded project that will begin in the year 2009.

“ARRA” PROJECTS INCLUDED:

This administrative amendment programs the following project in the TIP:

- S. 13th Avenue Overlay (City of Kelso)

This amendment includes one project from the city of Kelso totaling \$290,000 in federal ARRA and \$45,000 in state and local funds for a total of \$335,000 added to CWCOG’s TIP. This project previously identified as “planned” in CWCOG’s TIP is now “funding secured” which necessitates a formal amendment to CWCOG’s TIP.

PRIORITY OF PROJECTS:

The CWCOG prioritization process considers transportation planning, safety, preservation, and increased efficiency of the transportation system. The CWCOG supports all aspects of the transportation system including roads, public transportation, sidewalks, bike lanes, and travel demand management.

The CWCOG used its regionally established transportation goals and policies when selecting and prioritizing the project in this TIP amendment.

FINANCIAL PLAN:

As indicated in the financial plan, beginning on page nine of the TIP, the funds programmed do not exceed estimated revenues. This TIP amendment uses federal (including ARRA), state, and local funding.

The Program Development Office, the Public Transportation Division, and the Highways and Local Programs Division reviewed this TIP amendment and based on expected revenue, it is financially constrained.

COOPERATION:

The CWCOG developed this amendment in cooperation with Cowlitz County, WSDOT, and member jurisdictions.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

The CWCOG's public involvement process is on page nine of the TIP. The project in the March amendment #4 was available for public review and comment at the CWCOG's Board meetings in January and February.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS:

The CWCOG is not a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and is not required to have a Congestion Management Process (CMP).

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

This MPO is in an attainment area and is therefore exempt from air quality conformity.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONSISTENCY:

The projects in the TIP are from the following goals in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (pages 48-51):

- “Goal 1: To provide for a convenient, safe and efficient transportation/circulation network among the major areas of trip generation in the MPO area.”
- “Goal 2: Enhance the effectiveness of the existing transportation system.”
- “Goal 3: Provide a public transportation and quasi-public transportation access for all urban area residents who require such service.”
- “Goal 4: To improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in the transportation network.”

INTERMODAL/MULTIMODAL APPROACH:

Projects in the TIP provide for the development of an integrated transportation network that focuses on the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. The TIP includes street, bike, pedestrian, rail, safety, bridge, highway, and transit related projects.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY:

The CWCOG did not use the funding flexibility provisions of SAFETEA-LU in the development of its TIP.

CROSS-REGIONAL CONSISTENCY:

Active participation among WSDOT’s Southwest and Olympic Regions, City of Rainier, Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Transportation provides cross-regional consistency of the TIP for projects located outside the metropolitan area boundary.

CONCLUSION

After review and analysis of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments’ TIP “ARRA” amendment #4 for March 2009, and as set forth in the above findings, the Transportation Planning Office finds the amendment in compliance with the requirements of 23 U.S.C. §134.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the above findings and conclusion, the Transportation Planning Office recommends the Secretary of Transportation approve the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments’ TIP “ARRA” amendment #4 for March 2009.