



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**



August 15, 2013

**TO:** Page Scott, MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee Chair  
Members of the MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee  
Washington Indian Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (WITPAC)

**FROM:** Barbara Ivanov, Director, Washington State Department of Transportation  
(WSDOT) Freight Systems Division  
Karen Schmidt, Executive Director, Freight Mobility Strategic Investment  
Board (FMSIB) and the Washington State Freight Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Tribal and Regional Freight Projects in the Washington State Freight Plan

Dear colleagues:

As WSDOT develops the Washington State Freight Plan in 2013, we want to ensure that the principles and process for including Tribal and regional freight projects in the Plan are clear and provide sufficient time for you to submit information about your priority freight projects and strategies.

WSDOT, FMSIB and the State Freight Advisory Committee (a standing subcommittee of FMSIB) are partners in development of the State Freight Plan. The Office of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has delegated responsibility for reviewing State Freight Plans to the FHWA Division Office. WSDOT, FMSIB and our FHWA Division Office have worked together to jointly develop the attached form for freight project proposals for the State Freight Plan.

Please note that you aren't required to submit freight projects for inclusion in the State Freight Plan. There is an opportunity to do so, but no federal or state law requirement. The benefits of including freight projects in the Plan include:

- The State Freight Plan will guide both state and federal capital and operating investments in Washington State's freight systems. It will focus scarce resources on priority freight strategies when additional state and/or federal freight funds are available.
- Several organizations have let us know that they want their projects in the State Freight Plan as it is evidence of strong inter-jurisdictional freight planning and prioritization.
- Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act, all freight projects must be in the State Freight Plan in order to be eligible for additional federal matching funds. MAP-21 Section 1116 'Prioritization of



Projects to Improve Freight Movement' states that the Secretary may increase the Federal share payable for any project to 95 percent for projects on the Interstate System and 90 percent for any other project if the Secretary certifies that the project meets the Act's requirements. The FHWA regional office will review freight projects in the Plan to determine whether they meet MAP-21 eligibility requirements for the increased match. Section 1116 criteria are:

1. Demonstrate the improvement made by the project to the efficient movement of freight, including making progress towards meeting performance targets for freight movement established under section 150(d) of title 23, United States Code
2. Are identified in a State freight plan developed pursuant to Section 1118 of MAP-21

Under current law there are no additional federal or state funds provided for unfunded projects in the State Freight Plan. In Washington State, on average, local projects currently receive approximately 40 percent federal match.

Here are the principles that we will follow regarding including regional and Tribal freight projects in the Washington State Freight Plan:

1. WSDOT respects and relies on MPOs', RTPOs' and Tribal planning and project prioritization processes. Therefore freight projects submitted for inclusion in the State Freight Plan must be in Tribal and regional Transportation Improvement Plans or their Long-Range Transportation Plans.
2. FMSIB has a proven project evaluation process for local freight projects, and WSDOT will include a fiscally-constrained prioritized list of freight projects developed by FMSIB and/or its standing committee, the Washington State Freight Advisory Committee, in the Freight Plan.

The deadline for project submittal is October 31, 2013. WSDOT will update the projects included in the State Freight Plan every two years, so there will be additional opportunities to submit new project information.

Please feel free to share this information with your members and contact Barbara Ivanov at [ivanovb@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:ivanovb@wsdot.wa.gov) if you have any questions. Thank you for your partnership in developing the Washington State Freight Plan.

cc: Alison Hellberg, Association of Washington Cities  
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Members of the FMSIB



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