

## Proposed RTPO Funding Opportunity

We are quickly coming to the end of the biennium and have been closely watching the status of RTPO funds. As you are aware, **state funds cannot be carried forward beyond June 30, 2009**. Transportation Planning Office Staff contacted each RTPO and confirmed that each of you expect to spend your complete funding authorization.

### **\$42,000 in RTPO funding available**

Similar to past biennia, we are proposing that the Coordinating Committee collectively determine how to allocate approximately \$42,000 of RTPO (state) funding that is unallocated. This unallocated funding is the portion of the program that would have been available to San Juan County if it were to participate in the RTPO program. (We had some indication that San Juan County, under a new form of county government, might use that funding this biennium as a member or an adjunct member of a regional organization. However, it does not appear that, given the short timeframe, San Juan will become part of an RTPO this biennium.)

### **Proposed Process**

Not wanting to leave any money on the table this biennium and give anyone an excuse to have funding removed from future program budgets, this paper is a proposal to the Coordinating Committee on a process to be used and a call for projects that can be accomplished between April 1 and June 30, 2009, with UPWP amendments approved, and billing received before July 10, 2009. Many of you have unfunded projects already identified in your UPWPs. If such a project can be accomplished by June 30 within the dollar amount available, the UPWP amendments approved, and the project billed by July 10, you may wish to consider this as a way to fund it. Alternatively, the Coordinating Committee as a whole may have projects it wishes to submit.

This proposed method of allocating the funds is based on previous ones and staff will send this out incorporating any revisions made at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. To suggest a project, please prepare a concise half- to one-page project description and cost estimate that would also be appropriate as text for a UPWP amendment. The project descriptions will be used to develop the summary reviewed by all of you to determine which projects should be funded.

Please submit your project descriptions by **Tuesday, March 10**. Based on your submittals, we will prepare and e-mail a summary of proposals, formatted so each organization can vote on these requests. We will send the summaries and voting form out on **Thursday, March 12, 2009, with a deadline of Monday March 16** and your responses will be tallied after close of business on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009**.

We are proposing that the voting process be similar to last biennium. The number of votes each RTPO will receive will depend upon the number of submittals received. Last biennium we received eleven submittals and each RTPO received ten votes to give to one project or to spread over as many as 10. It's proposed that no fractional votes be allowed.

Once the results are confirmed, we will e-mail everyone the outcome on or before **March 20, 2009** and begin the appropriate (fast-track) UPWP amendment process.

Please submit your proposals/requests according to the schedule noted above by e-mail to Julie Rodwell (RodwelJ@wsdot.wa.gov) with a cc to Ralph Wilhelmi ([wilhelr@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wilhelr@wsdot.wa.gov)). Please include the appropriate descriptions and cost estimates noted above to support your requests.