

**WSDOT Recommendation to Secretary Hammond
for the
Puget Sound Regional Council
Metropolitan Planning Organization
2007-2010
Transportation Improvement Program
Amendment for March 2009**

FINDINGS

TIME FRAME:

The Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for March 2009 includes the years 2009 and 2010.

PROJECTS INCLUDED:

This TIP amendment adds nine new projects from member agencies, including: Snohomish County, WSDOT, and the cities of Bothell, Des Moines, Kent, and Seattle.

PRIORITY OF PROJECTS:

The PSRC selects and prioritizes the projects in the TIP using the framework of *Destination 2030*, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The PSRC adhered to the TIP policy framework (Appendix C of the TIP), adopted on April 27, 2006, to select and prioritize the projects in this amendment.

FINANCIAL PLAN:

The financial plan (Figure 6 of the TIP amendment) demonstrates that the amendment is financially constrained. The federal funds programmed in the amendment do not exceed estimated revenues. This TIP amendment uses federal, state, and local funds.

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 PSRC developed this TIP amendment in cooperation with member jurisdictions, transit agencies, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest, Olympic, and South Central regions, the WSDOT Urban Planning Office, the WSDOT Marine Division, and appropriate consultation took place with tribes in the region.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

The PSRC posts the next board's meeting agenda with its proposed TIP amendments as required in its public participation plan on its [web site](#). The meeting minutes reflecting amendment approval are also on the [web site](#). The Transportation Policy Board approved the projects in this TIP amendment at its meeting on February 12, 2009, and the Executive Board approved the projects at its meeting on February 26, 2009.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS:

The PSRC administers a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and is required to have a Congestion Management Process (CMP). A CMP was initially prepared in September 1994 for the 1995 update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), *Destination 2030*. The PSRC updated the CMP again in 2005 for the 2007 MTP update. The TIP amendment is consistent with the CMP.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

The projects in this amendment do not require Air Quality Conformity analysis.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONSISTENCY:

The PSRC staff reviewed this amendment for consistency with *Destination 2030*, the current MTP/RTP. Projects in the amendment are consistent with *Destination 2030*.

INTERMODAL/MULTIMODAL APPROACH:

The projects within the TIP include bridge, bike, pedestrian, safety, highway, and transit facilities. The PSRC considers all modes of transportation to meet its commitment to an integrated transportation system.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY:

The PSRC has primary project selection responsibility for Urban and Rural Surface Transportation Programs (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Federal Transit Administration funds. Highway, arterial, enhancement, and transit projects may use these funds. This is a funding flexibility provision of SAFETEA-LU.

CROSS-REGIONAL CONSISTENCY:

Active participation between the MPO staff and members with the WSDOT Northwest, Olympic, and South Central Regions, Marine Division, and Urban Planning Office provides cross-regional consistency. The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) is an associate member of the PSRC.

CONCLUSION

After review and analysis of the Puget Sound Regional Council's TIP amendment 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 Puget Sound Regional Council's TIP amendment for March 2009.