

**Northeast Washington  
Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
(NEW RTPO)  
SFY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program - Annual Report  
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**

*This annual report describes the activities undertaken and  
the work products produced by the  
Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
During the SFY 2009.*

**INDIVIDUAL WORK ELEMENTS**

**SECTION A: Planning Program Management**

The lead agency, Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD), provided management for the regional transportation planning process by coordinating the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) activities with the oversight of the RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the RTPO Policy Board (RTPB).

TEDD maintained and enhanced established contacts with federal, state, and tribal agencies, businesses, industries, civic and service groups in matters pertaining to transportation needs in the area.

Ongoing communication was provided in order to coordinate between the county, local transportation authorities, and federal and state agencies to address transportation issues within the region. This communication and coordination was done through meetings, training and program applications.

Meetings of the TAC and RTPB were scheduled and facilitated in order to review, address and discuss transportation issues with planning partners. Those meetings were held in July, September, October, and December of 2008, as well as January, February, March, April, May, and July of 2009.

***Work Products:***

- a) NEW RTPO Program Coordinator attended interagency and public meetings, trainings and workshops related to transportation issues. These included:
  - MPO/RTPO Coordinating Meetings
  - Public Transportation Conference (Kennewick, WA)
  - Tribal Transportation Meeting in Wellpinit
  - Commissioners' Meetings in All Three Counties for Transportation Issues

- Tribal Transportation Planning Organization Meetings (TTPO)
  - Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT)
  - WSDOT Meeting for Public Transportation
  - Meetings for Kettle Falls to Colville Non-Motorized Trail
  - National Rural Transportation Conference (Duluth, MN.)
  - Kalispell Tribe Public Transportation Meeting
  - Ferry County Trail Committee Meetings
  - Public Transportation Meetings in Colville
  - All Weather Roads Meeting
  - Rails to Trails Conservancy Meetings and local tour
  - Tribal Transportation Conference
  - Inland Northwest Meeting
  - Transportation Summit Committee Meetings
  - Power Up Summit in Wenatchee
  - National Transportation Institute State T Planning
- b) The Program Coordinator was responsible for composing the meeting minutes and fulfilling all other reporting requirements for both the RTPB and TAC.
- c) The Program Coordinator was responsible for studying any reports or other information provided by WSDOT and other transportation agencies.
- d) All pertinent information was disbursed to the RTPB and TAC in a timely manner.
- e) The Program Coordinator attended several Tribal meetings including the quarterly Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO) meetings and the Kalispel Transportation meetings. Efforts working with tribal transportation staff on local issues will continue.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$23,775.04**

## **SECTION B: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development**

The Engineering Firm of J.U.B. just completed updating the RTP including inventories, current data and data maps. In addition, they edited the format. In order to stay in compliance with WSDOT requirements, the RTP should be adopted at the August, 2009 RTPO meeting. In the July 2009 RTPO meeting, the Policy Board recommended a one month extension so the TAC and Policy Board could review the updates. The one month extension was granted; the final document will go before the Policy Board at the September 2009 meeting for adoption.

In order to comply with the consistency requirement of the Growth Management Act (GMA), the NEW RTPO must insure that the Transportation Element of local Comprehensive Plans are compatible with the RTP. Local Comprehensive Plan

reviews and certifications are ongoing due to the fact that all cities, towns, and counties in the tri county region have received extensions for their Comprehensive Plans and they are now due in 2010. They will be reviewed as they are completed.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$19,392.59**

## **SECTION C: Local Issues Advocacy**

The NEW RTPO continues to work on local issues that relate to the elements of the RTP.

One local issue involves public transportation. Due to the fact there is little public transportation (except human services) in the tri county region, the NEW RTPO in cooperation with Tom Hanson, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Public Transportation Division, has been working together, moving in the direction of a Public Transit Benefit Area (PTBA). Tom has met with all three counties' Commissioners regarding this issue. It was unanimous that the three counties wanted to wait until there was a feasibility study done before a Public Transportation Information Conference (PTIC) was called. This conference would be the next step in forming a PTBA. In addition, the NEW RTPO has been awarded a grant in the amount of 65,000.00 from the consolidated grant cycle. This is for a feasibility study in the tri county area for public transportation. The NEW RTPO Policy Board will oversee the management of the grant with TEDD as the fiscal agent.

One other area of public transportation is the intercity bus route that will be coming to our area. It was announced that WSDOT will go out to bid this fall and hopefully have service next spring. This route will be subsidized by Greyhound and the proposed route is from Kettle Falls to Spokane's multimodal center one round trip per day. The stops will be in Kettle Falls, Colville, Chewelah, Loon Lake, Deer Park and the Spokane multimodal center. There will be a meeting in August to kick off the project and this will include a plan to involve the communities in naming the line. Bus stops are being looked at in each city/town and will be set up to sell Greyhound tickets.

It is an ongoing process of educating the NEW RTPO and the public about the economic impact of insufficient transportation systems in our region such as all weather road surfaces. In addition, the NEW RTPO is involved with the newly announced rail abandonment of the Kettle Falls International Railroad from Grand Forks, B.C., to Kettle Falls. If this line is abandoned, it will impact not only the northeast Washington area but also Canada. The Program Coordinator has been involved and will continue to be involved in these issues in eastern Washington.

The Kettle Falls to Colville non-motorized trail and the Ferry County rail trail from Danville to Republic, are other local issues the Program Coordinator has been involved with. Pedestrian facilities and developing safe bicycle/walking routes are crucial to a healthy community. The Kettle Falls to Colville non-motorized trail Committee has made the decision to pursue the US 395 corridor for the trail. Their next step will be to secure funding for a feasibility study for that corridor. WSDOT has agreed to work closely with the Committee.

The Program Coordinator assists with such tasks as monthly meetings, minutes, research on funding sources and trail building, and most recently collaborating with the national organization Rails-to-Trails. The Project Coordinator coordinated with planning committees on the north and south ends of the path to ensure the paths along the US 395 corridor are compatible.

The Economic Development Specialists for Ferry and Stevens counties have been working with local agencies on road access issues including promoting capacity and safety improvements on State Highway 395.

The Program Coordinator continues to do outreach to the three Tribes (Colville Confederated, Spokane, and Kalispel) and supports their transportation planning efforts by attending the quarterly TTPO meetings as well as local transportation meetings including public transportation. Assistance with funding sources and learning funding processes are projects the Project Coordinator has been working on.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$24,596.93**

#### **SECTION D: Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**

In accordance with RCW 47.80, the NEW RTPO has been in the process of collecting Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs) from local jurisdictions. These documents will then be compiled to create a Regional TIP and be submitted to WSDOT by the October 2009 due date.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$3,464.41**

#### **SECTION E: Required Documentation**

Work products from the Program Coordinator include:

- a) RTPO Agreement
- b) Update of SFY 2008-2009 UPWP
- c) Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports
- d) Quarterly Vouchers
- e) Update Title VI Plan and Annual Report

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$7,992.58**

## **SECTION F: Long Range Planning**

The Program Coordinator conducted long range planning consistent with the Investment Guidelines of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) which include:

- Preservation
- Safety
- Economic Vitality
- Mobility
- Environmental Quality and Health

The Program Coordinator provided support to WSDOT activities related to the WTP by participating in Climate Change Committee meetings which involves reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and participated in the SSB 5412 Subcommittee meetings. National Rural Transportation Conferences were helpful in order to stay updated with country wide issues. Preservation of local rail lines and continuing to move freight and goods are critical to economic vitality in this area.

In addition, Safe Routes to School meetings, and public meetings promoting non-motorized transportation alternatives were attended.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$13,312.47**

## **Section G: Active Community Environments**

The NEW RTPPO worked directly with WSDOT and the Washington State Department of Health on the Active Community Environments (ACE) Project. The objective of this 5-year project was to improve the health and quality of life for Washington's citizens by improving and increasing opportunities to be physically active. (See Local Issues)

The Program Coordinator attended monthly meetings of "Get Fit Colville" and offered support to this program.

The ACE project was closed in May, 2008.

**Actual SFY 2009 Expenses: \$.00**

## Funding Summary

Note: All funds are from the RTPO Formula Grant

	<b>SFY 2008-09 Budget</b>	<b>SFY 08 Actuals</b>	<b>SFY 09 Actuals</b>	<b>Total</b>
Section A – Planning	<b>37,000.00</b>	13,224.96	23,775.04	37,000.00
Section B – RTP	<b>8,000.00</b>	3,607.41	19,392.59	23,000.00
Section C - Local Advocacy	<b>37,000.00</b>	12,403.07	24,596.93	37,000.00
Section D – TIP	<b>4,800.00</b>	2,535.59	3,464.41	6,000.00
Section E – Documentation	<b>32,000.00</b>	12,007.42	7,992.58	20,000.00
Section F – WTP	<b>30,939.00</b>	13,426.53	13,312.47	26,739.00
Section G – ACE	<b>3,350.00</b>	3,350.00	0	3,350.00
<b>RTPO Program Totals</b>	<b>153,089.00</b>	<b>60,554.98</b>	<b>92,534.02</b>	<b>153,089.00</b>