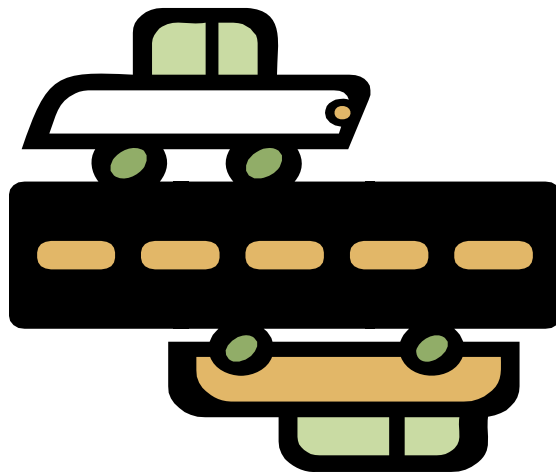


Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization

**SFY 2010
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
(UPWP)**



Prepared by:

Tri County Economic Development District

Adopted 27, 2009 (Resolution 2009-001)

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INTRODUCTION

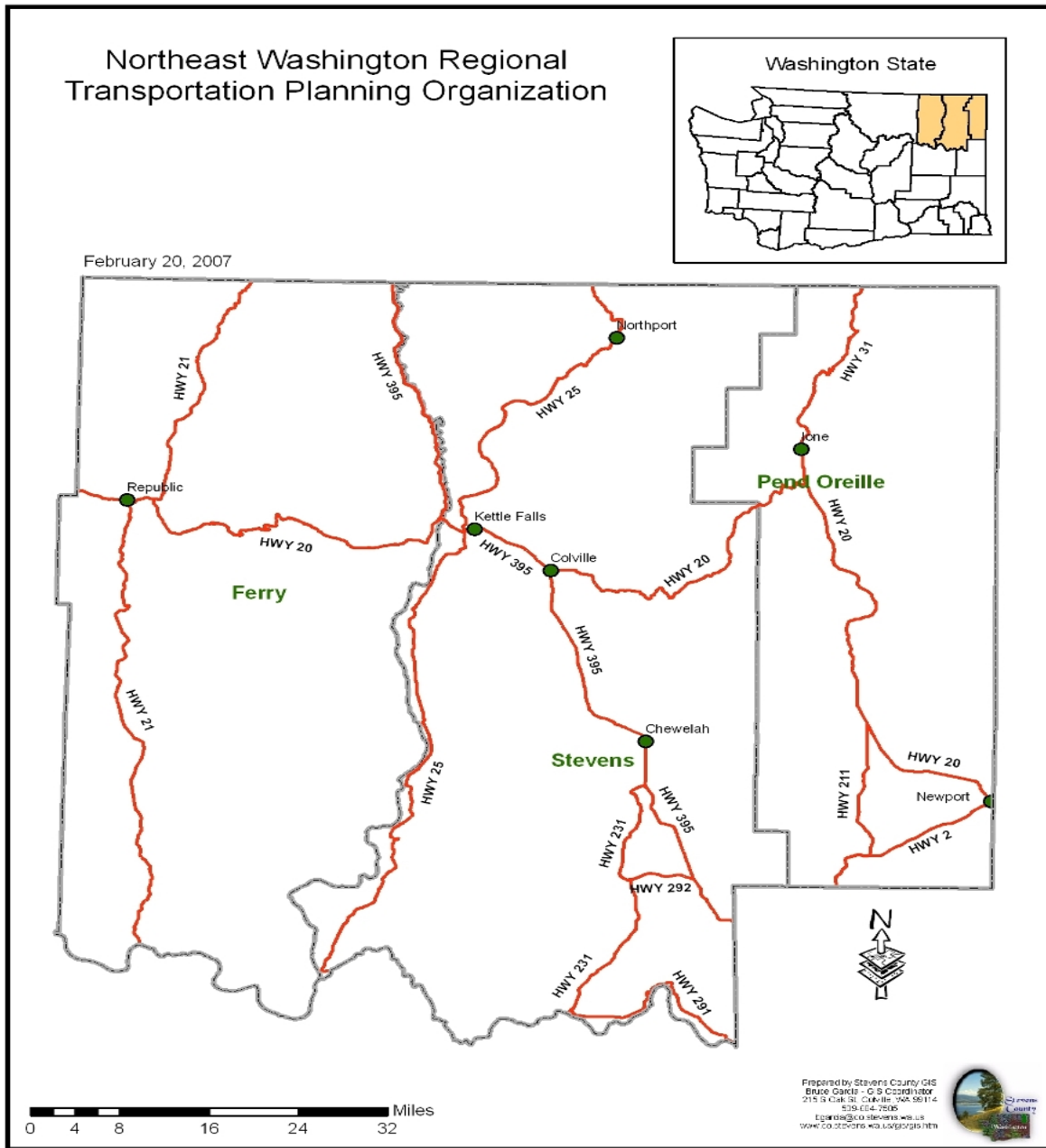
On October 22, 1990 the commissioners of Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties, by resolution, formed the Tri County Regional Transportation Planning Organization, now known as Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO), under the provisions of the 1990 Growth Management Act (GMA) (SHB 2929). The Commissioners then designated the Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) as the "Lead Agency" for the NEW RTPO.

The NEW RTPO was created to more efficiently utilize the resources available to the region in meeting growing transportation needs. Further evaluation of those needs as identified by the organization, resulted in the adoption of a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Northeast Washington. This plan is now updated as necessary. The formal RTPO provides many direct benefits to the region including:

- Acting as an advocate on transportation issues of the jurisdictions within the region;
- Representing the larger transportation interests of the region at state and federal levels;
- Keeping agencies and jurisdictions informed of transportation developments and potential developments at other levels and locations; and
- Acting as a full-time catalyst to focus regional attention and/or efforts on pertinent transportation issues, which might otherwise go unnoticed.

A Regional Transportation Policy Board (RTPB), made up of seats for elected officials and private transportation interests, directs the NEW RTPO. The RTPB is responsible for overseeing the planning process. The RTPB meets at least four and up to twelve times a year to review program activities and take formal action as required. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), consisting of professional and technical staff members representing state, county and local agencies and the private sector was established to participate in all phases of the transportation planning process. The TAC meets at the same time with the RTPB during the year to address planning issues in the ongoing development of the transportation plan.

BOUNDARY MAP



POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

City of Chewelah	Clancy Bauman
City of Colville	Bill Danekas
City of Kettle Falls	Dorothy Slagle
City of Newport	Fred Anderson
City of Republic	Shirley Couse (Vice Chair)
Town of Marcus	Fran Bolt
Town of Springdale	Mike Pammler
Town of Northport	Jerry Matteson (Chair)
Town of Metaline	Don Egbers
Town of Metaline Falls	Tara Leininger
Town of Cusick	Bob Spencer
Town of Lone	Kevin Foy
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Wally Hubbard/Julia Nenema
Colville Confederated Tribes	Brian Clark
Spokane Tribe of Indians	David Ernst/Claudia King
Ferry County	Joe Bond
Ferry County	Bob Heath
Pend Oreille County	Laura Merrill
Pend Oreille County	Diane Wear
Stevens County	Larry Gunther
Stevens County	Merrill Ott
Ferry County PUD	Nathan Davis
Pend Oreille County PUD	Dan Peterson
Stevens County PUD	Lloyd Henry
Port of Pend Oreille	Kelly Driver
Rural Resources	Kelly Scalf
WSDOT	Keith A. Metcalf

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ferry County	Troy Reynolds
Stevens County	Jason Hart
Pend Oreille County	Don Ramsey (Vice Chair)
City of Republic	Linda Hall
City of Chewelah	Curt Kelling
City of Colville	Jim Lapinski
City of Kettle Falls	Dave Keeley (Chair)
City of Newport	Ray King
Spokane Tribe of Indians	David Ernst/Claudia King
Colville Confederated Tribes	Brian Clark
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Wally Hubbard/Julia Nenema
Port of Pend Oreille	Kelly Driver
Rural Resources	Kelly Scalf
WSDOT	Mark Rohwer

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue for SFY 2010:

State Funds	\$75,186.00
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Budgeted Expenditures for SFY 2010:

Planning Program Management	\$17,500.00
Transportation Plan Development	\$ 4,000.00
Local Issue Advocacy	\$16,000.00
Transportation Improvement Plan	\$ 4,500.00
Document Preparation	\$15,000.00
Long Range Planning	\$18,186.00

KEY LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Key Regional Issues:

- Seasonal load limits or closures, due to **poor road conditions** and lack of all weather roads, impact the local economies.
- At present there is **inadequate public transportation** available. Economic vitality by providing access to jobs, recreational areas, medical services, and social activities, is a challenge. Investments addressing these issues will produce large returns for the region.
- General **aviation airports** in the region are inadequate. Air service is a key component to the transportation infrastructure in terms of passenger, medical, forest fire support, and cargo capabilities.
- **Tribal relationships** between the NEW RTPO and local Tribes (Spokane Tribe, incorporating tribal transportation goals and projects into the RTP. Kalispel Tribe, and Colville Confederated Tribes) are extremely important as is
- Due to our rural area, there are challenges with **transportation coordination** and communication within and among Stevens, Pend Oreille, and Ferry Counties.
- There is a lack of current **pedestrian bicycle/walking routes and trails** in the tri county region. In addition, there is a lack of pedestrian safety. The development and improvement of trails will benefit the health of our communities.
- Maintain existing **freight rail service**.

Key Local Issues:

Ferry County

- Addition of Passing Lanes to SR 20 on Sherman Pass.
 - Determine where traffic congestion most frequently occurs.
 - Encourage the construction of passing/climbing lanes in or near congested areas.
 - Bike lanes on Sherman Pass.
- Support and assist the City of Republic and County in their efforts with the newly acquired rail corridor between San Poil and Danville and the Golden Tiger Pathway.

- Support the City of Republic with local access issues for new businesses.
- Pedestrian/Bike Path on Highway 21 in the Keller Community. This is for the safety of the youth, community, and their domestic animals.
- Encourage Collaboration to realign a portion of dangerous roadway on the Inchelium-Kettle Falls highway two miles south of Barnaby Island.
- Continue to work with WSDOT and FHWA regarding the replacement of the Inchelium Ferry
- Continue to work with WSDOT regarding the Keller Ferry upgrades or replacement.

Stevens County

- Promote capacity and safety improvements for US 395.
- Continue to assist and support the "US 395" and the Safety Corridor Projects including four (4) lanes from Spokane to Loon Lake.
- Support efforts to improve the capacity of SR 291 from the Suncrest/Long Lake area to the Spokane County line or develop an alternate route.
- Support the Task Force for the Kettle Falls to Colville Non-Motorized Trail Project with coordinating meetings, public meetings, and secure funding. This will include arranging a consultant to advise the Task Force on future direction and applications for funding.
- Continue support for Flowery Trail all weather road connectivity.
- Continue to support the efforts by the City of Colville to improve air service such as passenger, medical, forest fire support, and cargo capabilities. At present, the Colville airport cannot support larger airplanes. The City is looking into expanding the current airport and/or building an entirely new one.

Pend Oreille County

- Encourage State Government and WSDOT to Improve grades, alignment and structures of SR 31 to a level which will be compatible with movement of heavy trucks across the Canadian border.
- Replacement / repair the USK Bridge.
- Repair lone Bridge.

- Improvements at the general aviation airport in Ione.
- Continue support for Flowery Trail all weather road connectivity.
- Continue support for Hwy 21 all weather road.

Spokane Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, and Colville Confederated Tribes

- Improve ingress/egress at the entrance of Two Rivers Resort Facilities on Hwy 25.
- Improvements on Hwy 25 at the Spoko/Texaco. Lengthen southbound deceleration lane before the Spoko/Texaco exit.
- Support of the Inchelium-Gifford Ferry Feasibility Study; replace/repair equipment.
- Support of the Inchelium Pedestrian Path
- Support the planning phase of transit service from the Inchelium area to Colville.
- Reconstruction of Silver Creek Road.

WORK PLAN ELEMENT EXPLANATIONS

Planning and Program Management:

The lead agency, TEDD, will provide management of the regional transportation planning process by coordinating UPWP activities with the oversight of the RTPB. The lead agency will maintain and enhance established coordination contacts with federal, state, tribal and local agencies, and with businesses, industries, civic and service groups in matters which pertain to transportation.

Management Commitments include schedule and facilitate meetings of the RTPB and TAC to review, address and discuss issues with the planning partners;

Attend interagency meetings and workshops;

Provide ongoing communication and coordination channels between county and local transportation authorities and federal and state agencies to fully address transportation issues within the region. This shall be done through meetings, trainings and other program applications that may be appropriate and effective.

Work Products

- Attendance at interagency meetings and workshops
- Coordinating and conducting public meetings
- Meeting reports, minutes and workshop notes
- Policy statements
- Study reports
- Trainings
- Correspondence and correspondence records

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT:

Continue implementation of transportation and growth management planning commonly known as the “Level of Service Bill”. An effort will be made to ensure the completion of this requirement and that local comprehensive plans are updated to reflect the requirements of the GMA.

Seek assistance and consultation for the plan development, plan inventory, and data collecting.

Begin review of LOS methodologies used by cities and counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW to promote a consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and corridors.

Perform biennial review of the RTP; seeking assistance and consultation for the plan development, plan inventory, data collecting, and review long-term transportation outlooks based on modes of transportation that are critical to the region.

In order to comply with the consistency requirements of GMA and to insure that the regional plan and local comprehensive plans are compatible, the RTPO will perform comprehensive consistency reviews of such county and municipal comprehensive plans as they are submitted during the 2010-11 years. The review will be conducted in accordance with the procedure developed by the lead agency and approved by the RTPB. Copies of the review will be sent to WSDOT planning offices in Olympia and Spokane.

In an effort to foster consistency and enable local jurisdictions to prepare their transportation elements in a manner that adequately addresses regional issues, the RTPO will participate in the development of the transportation elements in local comprehensive plans as further support of the regional plan.

The GMA requires (RCW 47.80.023 and 47.80.030) that plans are consistent and the RTPO complete a concurrency review of local comprehensive plans once per biennium. The NEW RTPO will also request periodic updates from local governments on what

impacts are expected to state highways from future land use changes.

Work Products

- Updated RTP
- Regional LOS standard reviews
- Reviews and certification of GMA comprehensive plans (transportation elements)

LOCAL ISSUES ADVOCACY:

The NEW RTPO will work to define and/or redefine local issues and policies that relate to elements of the regional transportation system. The NEW RTPO will work toward resolutions of those issues as they relate to the implementation of the RTP. ***A current list of local issues is on page 7-8.***

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

In accordance with RCW 47.80 the NEW RTPO shall develop a regional transportation improvement process. The regional process shall be guided by the same philosophies and policies that are used by the WSDOT in developing the WTP and shall employ, where appropriate, identical planning steps.

Format the annual Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Regional TIP) to be prepared and submitted to WSDOT and updated each year. The Regional TIP elements shall be those facility improvements applicable to the Regional Transportation System (RTS), which have been selected from the Local 6-Year TIP of the counties, tribes and local jurisdictions of the region plus those improvements considered necessary by the RTPB.

Work Products

- Regional TIP

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

The Tri-County Economic Development District staff will continue to update the RTPO Agreement, the UPWP and other reports and information as necessary to reflect current needs and to remain consistent with public law.

Work Products

- NEW RTPO agreement
- SFY 2010 UPWP

- Quarterly and annual progress reports
- Quarterly vouchers

LONG-RANGE PLANNING:

Conduct long range planning consistent with the Investment Guidelines and Key Policy Recommendations of the WTP. (See appendix B for WSDOT guidelines and requirements for the UPWP)

Work Products

- Participate in corridor studies or studies of statewide or regional significance by attending meetings, reviewing documents and communicating with the TAC and RTPB on these issues.
- Provide support of WSDOT activities related to the HSP and other modal plans, including non-motorized transportation alternatives, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with neighboring RTPO's on common issues such as identification of all weather road systems including
 - County road and city street needs
 - Transit needs
 - Non-motorized needs
 - Port, marine/river navigation, and other freight needs
- Continue to participate in the efforts to evaluate the potential for a north south transportation corridor, non-motorized network of trails and paths and a link between the state's rail study as it relates to the northeast region.
- Communicate with elected officials by conducting public meetings, preparing documentation and developing an informational website to increase awareness of the WTP, its issues of critical significance and the regional long-range transportation plan.
- Continue supporting implementation of regional transportation and growth management planning activities through the constant search for funding mechanisms to support this regional transportation planning process.
- Continue to support the development of the Kettle Falls to Colville non-motorized trail project. This will include hiring a consultant to assist the Task Force to proceed to the next phase of the project including securing funding. Also the rail corridor in Ferry County. This will include a class on trail development in all three counties. The NEW RTPO acknowledges the community's growing interest in this trail and

therefore will support the Task Force with educating the public and elected officials about the positive impact this project will have on our community.

- Continue efforts to support and increase public transportation in the tri county area. Included may be intercity bus routes, formation of a Public Transit Benefit Area (PTBA), contracting with local Rural Resources or Spokane Transit Authority.
- Support the Governor's Executive Order 02-07 on climate change and RCW 80.80.
- The NEW RTPO will continue to work closely with TEDD on economic developments in the region as economic vitality and transportation are directly connected.
- Monitor the Federal Surface Transportation Act renewal and be proactive where possible.
- Update the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan every four years.

APPENDIX A

ACRONYMS:

ACCT	Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation
CPTHSP	Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GHG	Green House Gas
GMA	Growth Management Act
LOS	Level of Service
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NEW RTPO	Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization
PTBA	Public Transit Benefit Area
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RTPB	Regional Transportation Planning Board
RTPO	Regional Transportation Planning Organization
RTS	Regional Transportation System
SR	State Route
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation
WTP	Washington Transportation Plan