

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON (RCW 47.80)

## What is an RTPO?

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A Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) is formed through a voluntary association of local governments within a county or contiguous counties. RTPO members include cities, counties, WSDOT, tribes, ports, transportation service providers, private employers and others.

## Why were RTPOs created?

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RTPOs were authorized as part of the 1990 Growth Management Act to ensure local and regional coordination of transportation plans.

## Which Counties participate in RTPOs?

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There are 14 RTPOs covering 38 of the 39 counties in Washington. San Juan County is not part of any RTPO.

## What do RTPOs do?

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RTPO planning must involve cities, counties, WSDOT, transit agencies, ports, and private employers. Among other duties individual RTPOs may perform to serve their membership, RTPOs are **required** to:

- ✓ Prepare a Regional Transportation Plan
- ✓ Certify that countywide planning policies and the transportation element of local comprehensive plans are consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan
- ✓ Develop and maintain a six-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program

## How are RTPOs different than Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)?

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- | <u>RTPO</u>                                                                                                                                                                          | <u>MPO</u>                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Created by <b>state</b> legislation (GMA) and supported by <b>state</b> funding</li><li>• Covers <b>both urban and rural</b> areas</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Created by <b>federal</b> legislation and supported by <b>federal</b> funding</li><li>• Covers <b>urbanized areas</b></li></ul> |

MPOs and RTPOs serve the same basic transportation planning functions – develop a long-range plan, coordinate within a region, and prepare a transportation improvement program. The federal MPO and state RTPO requirements of these organizations are complementary. The lead agency for a RTPO is also the lead agency for the MPO within the region (except Lewis-Clark Valley MPO because it is a bi-state organization).

## What is the WSDOT's role with RTPOs?

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WSDOT provides administrative and technical assistance, supports RTPO coordination activities, and actively participates in the regional transportation planning process.

# Regional Transportation Planning Organizations in Washington

(MPO lead agency)

**Benton-Franklin-Walla Walla RTPO (BFCG)** – *Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties*  
[www.benton-franklin.cog.wa.us](http://www.benton-franklin.cog.wa.us)  
(509) 943-9185

**North Central RTPO (WVTC)** – *Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties*  
[www.wvtc.org](http://www.wvtc.org)  
(509) 663-9059

**North East Washington RTPO** – *Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties*  
[www.teddonline.com](http://www.teddonline.com)  
(509) 684-4571

**Palouse RTPO** – *Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties*  
[www.palouse.org](http://www.palouse.org)  
(509) 751-9144

**Peninsula RTPO** – *Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties*  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/prtpo](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/prtpo)  
(360) 357-2600

**Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)** – *King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties*  
[www.psrc.org](http://www.psrc.org)  
(206) 464-7090

**Quad County RTPO** – *Lincoln, Adams, Grant, and Kittitas Counties*  
Kittitas County Public Works Dept (lead agency)  
(509) 962-7523

**Skagit-Island RTPO (SMPO)** – *Skagit and Island Counties*  
[www.scog.net](http://www.scog.net)  
(360) 416-7877

**Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SWRTC)** – *Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties*  
[www.rtc.wa.gov](http://www.rtc.wa.gov)  
(360) 397-6067

**Southwest Washington RTPO (CWCOG)** – *Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis, Pacific, and Grays Harbor Counties*  
[www.cwcog.org](http://www.cwcog.org)  
(360) 577-3041

**Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC)** – *Spokane County*  
[www.srtc.org](http://www.srtc.org)  
(509) 343-6370

**Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)** – *Thurston County*  
[www.trpc.org](http://www.trpc.org)  
(360) 786-5480

**Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG)** – *Whatcom County*  
[www.wcog.org](http://www.wcog.org)  
(360) 676-6974

**Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG)** – *Yakima County*  
[www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)  
(509) 574-1550

