

What is a Regional Transportation Planning Organization? (RTPO 101)



Today's Discussion

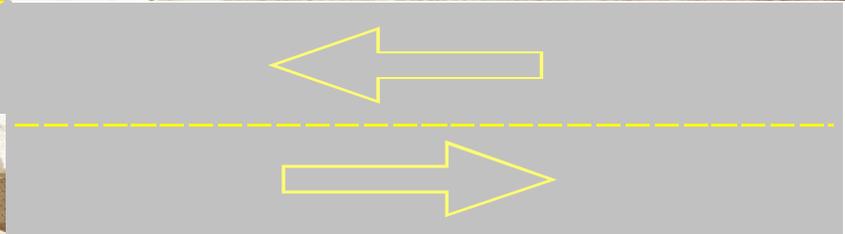
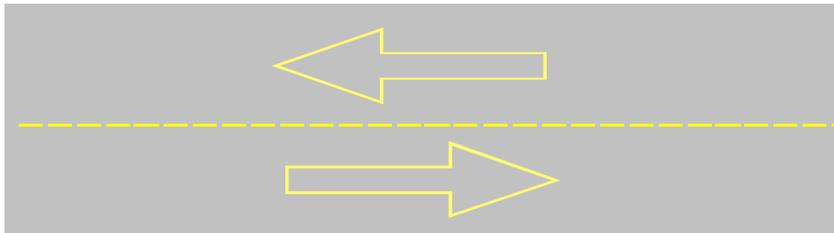
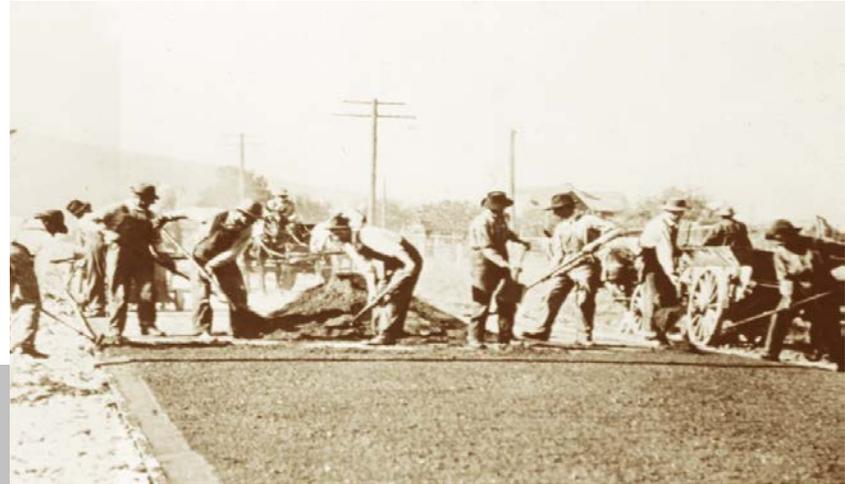
- History of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO)
- Difference Between Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and RTPOs
- RTPO Membership and Organizational Structure
- RTPO Duties and Functions
- Peninsula RTPO

BACK IN THE 80's

Before GMA

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WAS DONE
ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS

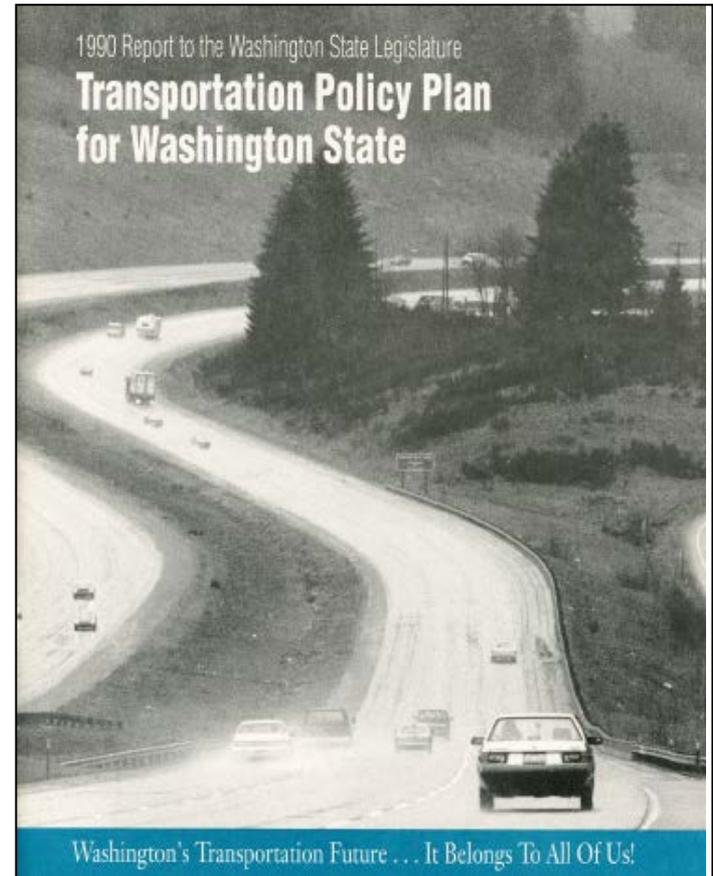
PROCESS WAS TYPICALLY ACCOMPLISHED
BY A SINGLE AGENCY



WITH DIS-
JOINED RESULTS

RTPOs Were Created in 1990

- The 1990 Transportation Policy Plan recommended that the legislature create RTPOs.
- RTPOs were created as part 3 of the Growth Management Act and the statewide planning process to address:
 - Transportation issues that crossed jurisdictional boundaries
 - Transportation and land use relationships



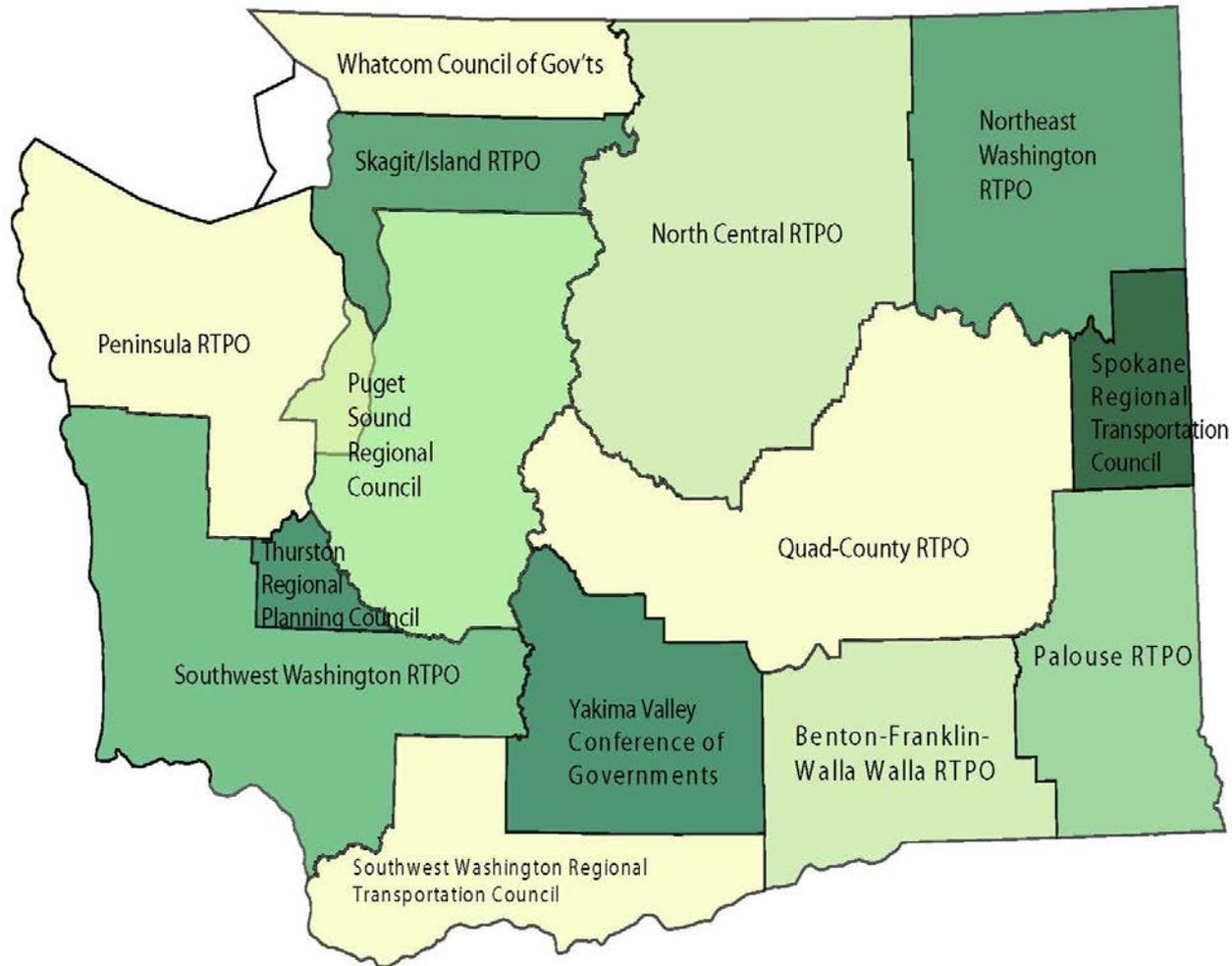
Regional Transportation Planning Organizations

RCW 47.80.020

Regional transportation planning organizations authorized.

The legislature hereby authorizes creation of regional transportation planning organizations within the state.

Each regional transportation planning organization shall be formed through the voluntary association of local governments within a county, or within geographically contiguous counties.



The Purpose of an RTPO

WAC 468-86-020 (1)

RTPOs are a formal mechanism for local governments and the state to coordinate transportation planning for regional transportation facilities.



RTPO Establishment Criteria

RCW 47.80.020

Each RTPO...shall:

- *Encompass at least one complete county*
- *Have a population of at least 100,000, or contain a minimum of three counties; and*
- *Have as members all counties within the region, and at least 60% of the cities and towns within the region representing a minimum of 75% of the cities' and towns' population.*

In urbanized areas, the regional transportation planning organization is the same as the metropolitan planning organization designated for federal transportation planning purposes.

Determining Region Planning Boundaries

WAC 468-86-040

Local governments should decide the geographic extent and composition of their region.

The region should reflect common transportation concerns and a willingness among the local governments to work together in a cooperative planning process.

WAC 468-86-130

Based upon the identified needs and probable funding levels within the region, the proposed future transportation network defines specific facility or service improvements, transportation system management strategies, and demand management strategies proposed for implementation on the regional transportation system.

A scenic view of a river flowing through a rocky canyon. The river is turbulent, with white water rapids cascading over dark, smooth boulders. The banks are steep and covered in dense evergreen forests. The sky is overcast, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

The Difference Between MPOs and RTPOs

The Difference Between RTPOs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

RTPO

- State legislation created RTPOs
- An RTPO covers both urban and rural areas and receives state funding in support of its planning efforts

MPO

- Federal legislation created MPOs
- An MPO covers an urbanized area and receives federal funding in support of its planning efforts

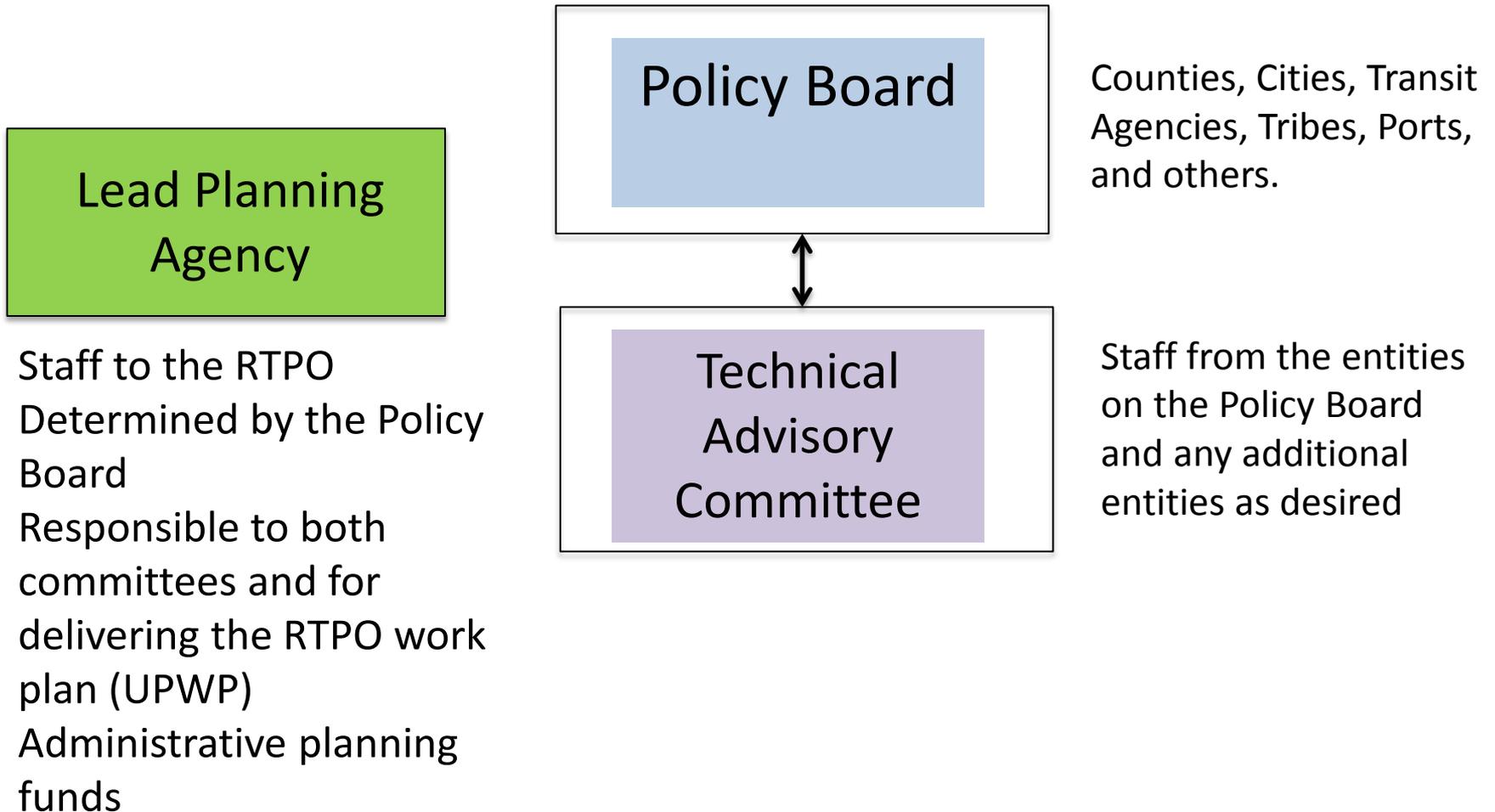
RTPOs should be integrated with the MPO program in urban areas. The federal MPO and state RTPO requirements of these organizations are complementary.





RTPO Membership and Organizational Structure

RTPO Organizational Structure



RTPO Policy Board

RCW 47.80.040

Each regional transportation planning organization shall create a transportation policy board.

Transportation policy boards shall provide policy advice to the regional transportation planning organization and shall allow representatives ... within the region to participate in policy making.



RTPO Policy Board , continued

Membership shall include:

- *Cities and towns*
- *Counties*
- *WSDOT & WSF*
- *Transit agencies*
- *Ports*
- *Private employers*

RTPOs are also encouraged to include tribes.



RTPO Policy Board, continued

RCW 47.80.040

Any members of the house of representatives or the state senate whose districts are wholly or partly within the boundaries of the regional transportation planning organization are considered ex officio, nonvoting policy board members of the regional transportation planning organization.

This does not preclude legislators from becoming full-time, voting board members.

RTPO Duties and Functions



Duties and Functions of RTPOs

RCW 47.80.023

- Prepare and periodically update a transportation strategy for the region.
- Prepare a regional transportation plan as set forth in RCW [47.80.030](#) that is consistent with countywide planning policies.
- Review Regional Transportation Plans every two years.
- Review and certify that transportation elements of comprehensive plans and countywide planning policies adopted under GMA (RCW [36.70A.210](#)) are consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan, and, where appropriate, conform with the requirements of GMA (RCW [36.70A.070](#)).
- Develop, in cooperation with the department of transportation, operators of public transportation services and local governments within the region, a six-year regional transportation improvement program.

Duties and Functions of RTPOs

RCW 47.80.023

- To review level of service methodologies used by cities and counties planning under GMA.
- To work with cities, counties, transit agencies, WSDOT, and others to develop level of service standards or alternative performance measures.
- To submit every four years an updated Coordinated Human Transportation Services Plan (HSTP) to the Agency Council On Coordinated Transportation , as provided in chapter [47.06B](#) RCW
- To submit a prioritized human service and rural transit project list every two years.

WSDOT's Role with RTPOs

The RTPO program is administered by WSDOT:

- Monitors and ensures compliance with state regulations
- Provides administrative and technical assistance
- Administers the RTPO reimbursable grant program
- Approves the RTPO Unified Planning Work Programs and Budgets
- Coordinates inter-agency planning activities (MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee)

Actively participates in the regional transportation planning process by :

- Serving as a member of the Policy Board
- Serving as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Coordinates and consults on regional transportation planning activities and studies

Peninsula RTPPO



THE PENINSULA RTPO

Formed: DECEMBER 1990

Covers:

- 4,877 sq. miles of area
- 2,959 Miles of Roadway



Represents Olympic and Kitsap Peninsula jurisdictions, agencies and tribes of

- Clallam County
- Jefferson County
- Mason County
- Kitsap County

PENINSULA RTPO

WHO ARE THE STAKE HOLDERS??

*Representing
THE NORTHERN OLYMPIC &
KITSAP PENINSULAS are:*

Four Counties

Nine Cities

Nine Tribal Nations

Four Transit Agencies

Four Port Districts

WSDOT, Olympic Region

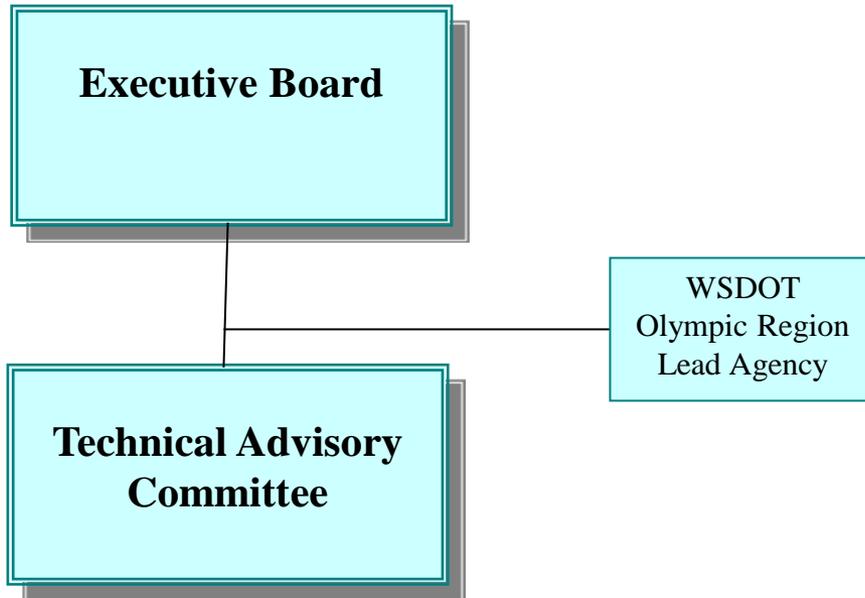
Washington State Ferries

Major Employer

includes 12 legislators from 4
Legislative Districts (3rd, 24th,
25th, 35th)



THE PENINSULA RTPO STRUCTURE



Subcommittees formed as required

PRTPO Membership	
Clallam County	Clallam Port Districts
Jefferson County	Jefferson Port Districts
Kitsap County	Kitsap Port Districts
Mason County	Mason Port Districts
Port Angeles	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Forks	Makah Tribe
Sequim	Hoh River Tribe
Port Townsend	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Shelton	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Bremerton	Quileute Tribe
Bainbridge	Skokomish Tribe
Port Orchard	Squaxin Island Tribe
Poulsbo	Suquamish Tribe
Clallam Transit	WSDOT Olympic Region
Jefferson Transit	Washington State Ferries
Kitsap Transit	Port Townsend Paper
Mason Transit	

Financial Aspects of RTPOs

RTPO Financing

RCW 47.80.050

RTPOs receive biennial state appropriations through WSDOT to carry out their program. Funding is calculated by formula and distributed to the lead agencies.

This formula includes a base amount for each county within an RTPO plus an amount based on population.



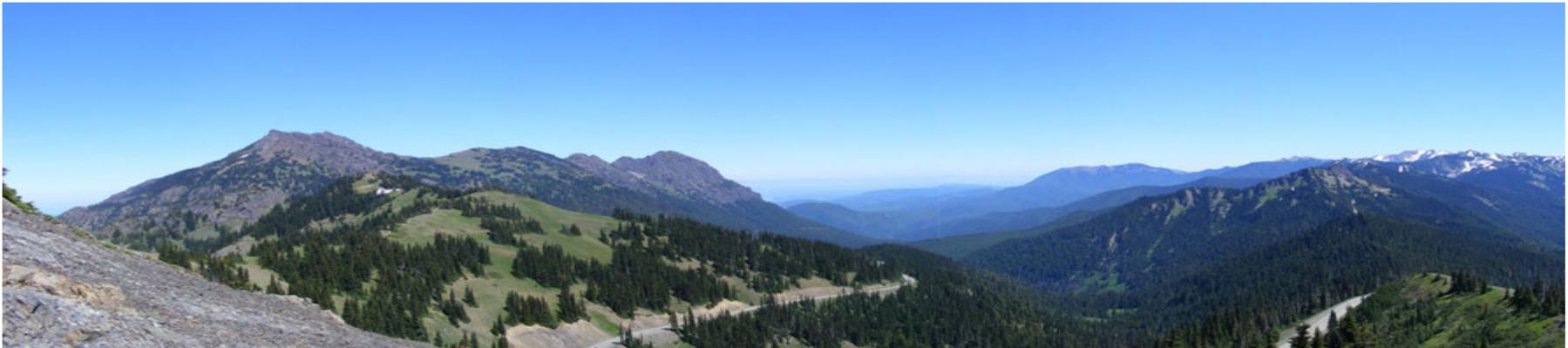
Financial Aspects of RTPOs

Federal Fund Distribution Responsibilities	
	Lead Agency
Surface Transportation Planning (STP) Funds	
Clallam, Jefferson, Mason Counties	Counties
Kitsap County	PSRC
Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funds	
Clallam, Jefferson, Mason Counties	Peninsula RTPO
Kitsap County	PSRC
Consolidated Grant Program (Rural & Humans Service)	
Clallam, Jefferson, Mason & Kitsap Counties	Peninsula RTPO

Summary

RTPOs are:

- Responsible for coordinating transportation planning within their region.
- Required by law to develop long-range transportation plans cooperatively with the state, transit operators, and locals and are encouraged to include tribes.
- Required by law to certify that the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Required by law to develop a six-year transportation improvement program.



A scenic coastal landscape featuring a rocky island with evergreen trees, reflected in the calm water of a bay. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text.

Questions?

Plan Relationships

- Cities and counties develop comprehensive plans
- Counties develop countywide or multicounty planning policies
- Regional transportation plans are then developed to mesh with local plans and countywide planning policies
- Each regional transportation plan is a guide for achieving consistency among the local transportation plans in the region



Regional Transportation Plan, continued

RCW 47.80.030

- Identifies and gives emphasis to those facilities, services, and programs that exhibit one or more characteristics:
 - Crosses member county lines
 - Is or will be used by a significant number of people who live or work outside the respective county
 - Significant impacts are expected in more than one county
 - Potentially adverse impacts can be better avoided or mitigated through adherence to regional policies
 - Transportation issue remedy has regional significance

Regional Transportation Plan, continued

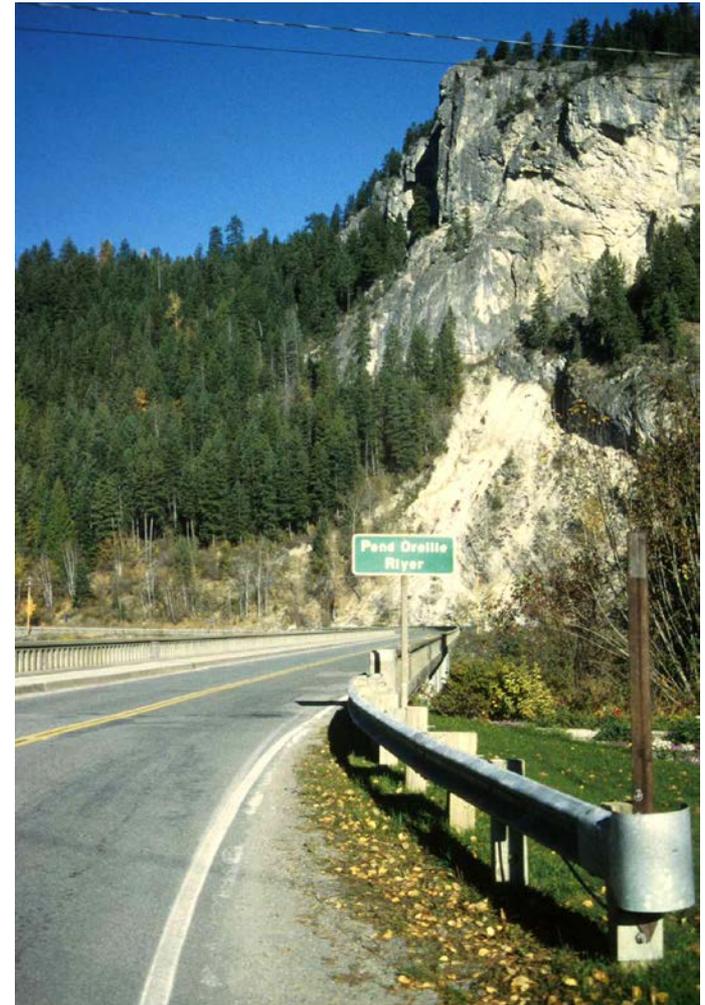
RCW 47.80.030

- Provides for system continuity
- Establishes level of service standards for state highways and state ferry routes
- Includes a financial plan
- Assesses regional development patterns, capital investment and other measures
- Includes a proposed regional transportation approach
- Where appropriate, defines the relationship of high capacity transportation providers and other public transit providers regarding responsibility for and coordination between services and facilities

Regional Transportation Plan, continued

RCW 47.80.030 (3)

All transportation projects, programs, and transportation demand management measures within the region that have an impact upon regional facilities or services must be consistent with the plan and with the adopted regional growth and transportation strategies.



Regional Transportation Improvement Programs

WAC 468-86-160

Regional transportation improvement programs (TIPs) are developed at least once every two years and shall:

- *Be developed on a cooperative basis*
- *Consist of a list of regionally significant transportation projects and programs*
- *Consist of regionally significant projects included in the local six-year transit development plans and six-year comprehensive transportation programs*
- *Include all proposed WSDOT projects in the region;*
- *Include only projects consistent with the regional transportation plan;*
- *Include a financial section*