

Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Plan Update Summary of March 8, 2007 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

At the March 8, 2007 TAC meeting, The Transpo Group presented the process for defining and selecting a recommended transportation strategy for the Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plan (M/RTP or Plan). A recommended strategy is needed in developing the Plan since funding will not likely be available for all of the identified improvements within the next 20 years. The development of a recommended strategy and plan builds on the priorities established by the TAC and Executive Committee based on public input and agency goals and objectives. At the meeting, Transpo provided an overview of the baseline improvements (improvements for which there are already commitment) and the alternative strategies to address existing and forecast deficiencies. The results from the technical evaluation of travel forecasts for the metropolitan area were summarized. This included review of roadway and intersection operations/capacity deficiencies under the various alternatives. Summaries of key performance measures, such as the amount of travel and overall level of travel delays, also were provided for the metropolitan area.

The preliminary recommended transportation strategy was summarized to include the following:

- ❖ Maintain and preserve prior investments in the regional transportation system
- ❖ Complete transportation projects that are underway or have previously been established as having a strong regional commitment
- ❖ Focus on spot or corridor improvements that resolve operational and safety issues
- ❖ Invest in selected widening or construction of new corridors to accommodate forecast travel demands, shift traffic from existing congestion locations, and to support better access to the major regional highway system
- ❖ Enhance transit and transportation demand management programs to better serve the local community needs and to reduce overall traffic volumes
- ❖ Improve special needs transportation services, especially outside the metropolitan area
- ❖ Construct high priority components and missing links of the regional non-motorized transportation system, that are not addressed by other transportation improvements
- ❖ Reference other regionally significant projects that could be funded at a later date

- ❖ Support local agency projects to improve the overall mobility for the communities and reduce the local traffic demands on the regional system

The TAC provided comments at the meeting and a subcommittee provided additional direction for the recommended strategy prior to the March 19 Executive Meeting. The development of the preferred strategy, incorporating the TAC comments, will be presented to the Executive Committee on March 19, 2007 for information and discussion.