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**McCall, Marilee**

**From:** Tweet <tweetfamily@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2014 3:33 PM  
**To:** Cnty 2016 Comp Plan  
**Subject:** Comprehensive growth management plan update  
**Attachments:** 201104MTPPopEmploy.pdf

The growth rates being used to plan for transportation in Clark County appear to be unrealistic, leading to costly planning errors and promoting "high capacity" transit in spite of low capacity usage of the transit system over the last 2 decades. Please adjust the growth rates to better reflect the actual conditions in Clark County. Regional Transportation Plans will better serve businesses and residents if they are more accurate.

Margaret Tweet

**From:** "Tweet, margaret" <tweetfamily@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Lookingbill, Dean" <dean.lookingbill@rtc.wa.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 4, 2012 11:04:21 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: 2011 Metro. Transportation Plan Update: 2035 population and employment forecast memorandum dated March 29, 2011

Dear Mr. Lookingbill.

At the March 2011 RTC meeting, there was discussion about adjusting the population and employment rates used to predict future transportation demand, as per the attached document.

Questions: what is the population growth rate used for the following, the DEIS? FEIS? the 2030 plan? the 2035 Plan?  
What is the jobs ratio used for the DEIS? FEIS? the 2030 Plan or the 2035 Plan.

The light rail/BRT proposal appears based on the 2035 predictions. Is it?

Please clarify, was the DEIS/FEIS based on the 2030 plan?

The increased jobs to household ratio of 1.03 for the 2035 plan is considerably higher than the current rate of .82.

Why did you recommend using this higher jobs to household ratio?

Thank you for any clarification you can provide.

Margaret Tweet

**From:** "Dean Lookingbill" <dean.lookingbill@rtc.wa.gov>  
**To:** "Tweet" <tweetfamily@comcast.net>

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**Cc:** "diane workman" <[diane.workman@rtc.wa.gov](mailto:diane.workman@rtc.wa.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2012 9:45:45 AM

**Subject:** RE: 2011 Metro. Transportation Plan Update: 2035 population and employment forecast memorandum dated March 29, 2011

Ms. Tweet,

In response to your e-mail requests of 6/8/12 and 6/11/12 please note the following. Attached is the March 29, 2011 RTC Board memo on the 2035 population and employment forecast used for the 2035 Clark County Metropolitan Transportation Plan. There have been no updates to the to the plan or 2035 population and employment forecast since that time. The jobs to household ratio is stated in the memo.

Here is the web link to the OFM population projections, their methodology is explained on the web site. <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections12/projections12.asp>

Here are two web links to the Employment Security Department, their assumptions and methodology are explained on their web site. <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/industry-reports/employment-projections>

<https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/county-profiles/clark-county-profile>

Dean Lookingbill

RTC Transportation Director

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MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
**DATE:** March 29, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** 2011 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update: 2035 Population and Employment Forecast

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***AT A GLANCE – Action Requested***

*The RTC Board is being asked to take action on the adoption of the 2011 MTP 2035 population and employment forecast. The proposed 2035 forecast includes the feedback from the Board at their March 1, 2011 meeting, as well as a follow up review by the technical staff of RTC member jurisdictions. The forecast is consistent with the adopted 2007 GMA Plan, while extending the forecast year from 2024 to 2035. The 2035 population forecast of 641,800 is in between the OFM medium and high projection. The forecast also takes into account the current economic recession that has slowed growth in Clark County over the last several years. The 2035 employment projection of 256,200 is consistent with the adopted 2007 GMA Plan by maintaining a 1.03 jobs to household ratio. The 2035 employment forecast is less than the previous 2030 MTP employment forecast, however, the jobs to household ratio of 1.03 is considerably higher than the current ratio of .82 jobs to household.*

**INTRODUCTION**

As the Board will recall, the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a part of the required federal and state transportation planning process and represents the collective strategy for developing a regional transportation system to provide both mobility and accessibility for person trips and freight movement. The 2011 MTP update is needed in order to meet the federal requirements that Regional Transportation Plans must be updated at least every four years. The MTP must also address a 20-year planning horizon for the life of the Plan which requires RTC to adopt the year 2035 as the Plan's forecast year.

The 2035 population and employment forecast and its geographic allocation reflects and quantifies the adopted future land-use conditions for 2011 MTP Update. The forecast and allocation serve as major inputs to RTC's regional travel forecasting model that in turn produces a forecast of future travel demand. In developing the 2011 MTP update, travel demand model outputs will be used in conjunction with adopted MTP goals and policies, existing local and state transportation plans and updated financial information to assess future transportation needs and compare the performance of long-range planning strategies and options. Additionally, the model will support the project development processes for WSDOT, local jurisdictions and C-TRAN by providing a county-wide comprehensive, regional forecast of travel demand. The 2035 forecast year is consistent with the required 20-year planning horizon for the environmental impact

statements for roadway projects as well as transit projects like C-TRANS upcoming Alternatives Analysis for the proposed Fourth Plain Bus Rapid Transit project.

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the feedback that the RTC Board requested from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) on the proposed 2035 forecast and to seek the adoption of the proposed county-wide 2035 population of 641,800 and employment forecast of 256,200 for use in the 2011 MTP Update.

#### **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2011 MTP DEMOGRAPHIC FORECAST**

During the development of a new 2035 population and employment forecast, RTC has collaborated extensively with the long-range planning staff of partner agencies in reviewing current population and employment forecasts produced by the State of Washington and considering region-wide econometric assumptions developed by Metro. RTC staff, local jurisdiction staff and RTAC have continued to use the following principles to guide the development of the proposed 2035 forecast.

- Maintain consistency with adopted Comprehensive Growth Management plans and current land use designations
- Incorporate official state population forecasts from the Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Consider long-term industry employment projections from the Employment Security Department (ESD)
- Account for the impacts of the recent economic recession
- Consider region-wide econometric assumptions developed by Metro
- Use the adopted MTP 2030 forecast and allocation as the starting point

Following the feedback from the RTC Board at their March meeting, RTC staff met with the long-range planning staff from Clark County, the City of Vancouver and all of RTAC members to discuss the comments from the RTC Board and to review the previously RTAC recommended forecast. The following two sections provide a summary of RTAC member's responses to the Board comments and their recommended 2035 population and employment forecast.

#### **PROPOSED 2035 POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT FORECAST**

RTC staff met with the local jurisdiction long-range planning staff on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss and review the previously RTAC recommended forecast and Board's comments. Their review of available population forecasts concluded that the current state OFM medium projection trend (see attached graph) provides the best predictive forecast for county-wide population and that using a population forecast that falls between the OFM medium and high projection trends will provide sufficient mitigation against the risk of under-planning, while maintaining consistency with the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. It was also noted that the new population

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forecast should account for the lower than expected growth that has occurred since the adoption of the comprehensive plan. They also concluded that a future job per household ratio of 1.03 sets an aggressive employment growth target that is consistent with the policy goals of the comprehensive plan and represents significant growth over the current job per household ratio of 0.82.

At the March 18<sup>th</sup> RTAC meeting, RTAC members agreed that a 2035 population of 641,800 and employment forecast of 256,200 is consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and presents little risk for under-planning for transportation needs. RTAC members stated that over-forecasting can dilute focus of planning efforts and cause the region to allocate scarce funds to transportation needs that may not materialize during the plan's timeframe. RTAC also expressed that the county will begin the process to update the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan in few years, providing the opportunity to comprehensively address growth in the county and not solely through the lens of transportation.

RTAC recommends the RTC Board adopt a 2035 population forecast of 641,800 because of the following:

- It falls between the OFM high and medium projections to minimize risk of under-planning, like the GMA forecast for 2024.
- It represents the growth trend of the GMA that has been adjusted to reflect lower than expected population growth as shown by the 2010 census.
- It maintains consistency with the adopted Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

RTAC recommends the RTC Board adopt a 2035 employment forecast of 265,200 because of the following:

- It is consistent with Comprehensive Growth Management Plan policy to capture a greater share of regional employment growth in order to allow for increased opportunity to work and live within Clark County.
- Raising the county's current job to household ratio from 0.82 to 1.03 is an aggressive growth target that adds over 5,000 new jobs per year and doubles the county's 2010 employment.

Planning staff from Clark County and the City of Vancouver will be in attendance at the April RTC Board meeting to address questions and comments from the Board regarding RTAC's forecast recommendation.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Maintaining consistency with adopted comprehensive plans is one the main principles guiding RTC and RTAC members in the process of developing a 2035 forecast of population and employment for the MTP update. The RTAC forecast recommendation begins with the planning

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policies of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan; adds the most recent population projections from OFM; and accounts for the recent impacts to the county's growth using observed data from the 2010 Census.

Upon the adoption of a 2035 population and employment forecast by the RTC Board, RTC staff will continue to work closely with its member jurisdictions to generate an allocation of the forecast to the 665 transportation analysis zones (TAZs) that represent Clark County. The main focus of the growth allocation effort will be maintaining consistency with adopted comprehensive plans and current zoning. Towards that end, RTAC has recommended the following approach to allocate the 2035 population and employment forecast:

- Begin with the 2030 TAZ allocation for the 2007 MTP
- Remove households and employment from land that has been remanded from urban growth areas (UGAs) since the 2007 adoption of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan
- Remove households and employment that were added to urban reserve areas when allocating 2024 to 2030 population and employment growth for the 2007 MTP
- Review and modify planning-level overrides to redevelopment areas within UGAs
- Allocate remaining households and employment within designated urban reserves

This approach will maintain consistency with adopted land-use plans while providing a demographic forecast and allocation that extends 11 years beyond the 2024 horizon year of Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The RTC Board is being requested to adopt a county-wide 2035 forecast of population and employment for the 2011 MTP. The proposed 2035 population forecast is 641,800 and the employment forecast is 256,200. The 2035 forecast will provide one of the major inputs to RTC's regional travel forecasting model which in turn provides the 2035 travel demand forecast. The output of the travel forecasting model will be used along with adopted MTP goals and policies, existing local and state transportation plans and new financial information to assess the future transportation needs to be recommended in the MTP.

Attachment

20110405RTCB\_MTPpop&EmpMemo.doc

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