

## 2020–2021 UPDATE TO SKAGIT 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### SCOPE OF WORK

Approved by the Skagit Council of Governments  
Transportation Policy Board on April 15, 2020

This scope of work, also referred to as a “regional transportation strategy” for consistency with state regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) requirements, encompasses the 2020–2021 update to the [Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan](#) (Skagit 2040 or RTP). The requirement to have a regional transportation strategy is included in the state law for RTPOs, specifically [RCW 47.80.023 \(1\)](#). This strategy acts as a guide in how the region updates the Regional Transportation Plan.

The most recent update to Skagit 2040 was in March 2016, with a plan amendment in March 2017. The “effective date” of the plan, for federal metropolitan transportation planning purposes, is March 2016. Federal requirements dictate that Skagit 2040 must be updated at least every five years from the effective date. Therefore, the update to Skagit 2040 must occur by March 2021. State RTPO requirements for Skagit 2040 do not include a specific timeframe for updating, though updates are required periodically.

Several federal rulemakings have been published since the 2016 update that require MPOs to include performance measures, target setting and reporting. These performance requirements were introduced as part of the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act – the federal transportation law. The most recent federal transportation law, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, continued this performance-based planning approach. The 2021 update to Skagit 2040 must include a number of new features to be consistent with recent federal rulemakings. An overview of performance based-planning and programming is available through the [Federal Transit Administration](#).

Federal requirements for updating Skagit 2040 can be found at [23 CFR 450.324](#). State requirements for updating Skagit 2040 can be found at [RCW 47.80.030](#).

#### **GENERAL ANTICIPATED COMPONENTS**

General anticipated components of the Skagit 2040 update are as follows:

- The planning horizon for the RTP must be at least 20 years so it will be extended to 2045 to ensure this requirement is met. The current plan has a planning horizon of 2040. Forecasts and other elements used in the plan will be extended to the new horizon year.

- Modify the proper name of the plan to “Skagit 2045 Regional Transportation Plan”, or similar, to reflect the planning horizon year.
- Develop a public involvement plan (PIP) unique to the plan update for public outreach during the planning process. The PIP should be finalized in May 2020.
- The plan will address alternative transportation modes and transportation demand management in regional corridors.
- The plan will utilize local comprehensive plans, including current updates to plans and results from local public engagement processes, to inform the plan update process.
- The plan will include updated transportation goals and policies to assist with implementation of adopted growth strategies of local governments.
- Consistency reviews will ensure consistency between the plan and countywide planning policies in Skagit County, as well as consistency with the state transportation plan.
- The plan update will include a review of applicable level of service standards with revisions as necessary, to be conducted jointly with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- The plan will address new federal planning requirements that have gone into effect following the 2016 plan update. Most of these requirements are related to performance-based planning. Other new federal requirements relate to resiliency and reliability of the transportation system, travel and tourism, intercity buses, state safety integration and public port involvement in the planning process.
- The plan will address any changes to state planning requirements, as practicable, during the timeframe of the plan update. Revisions to the RTPO requirements for the regional transportation plan under RCW 47.80.030 were last made in 2005.
- A consultant will be hired in 2020 to assist with an update to the regional travel demand model, and utilization of the updated model with the plan update. The model update will also incorporate results of the household travel survey project, which is now underway.

### ANTICIPATED CHANGES TO SKAGIT 2040 SECTIONS

Anticipated changes to RTP sections through the update are as follows:

- The *Executive Summary* section provides an overview of the RTP and will be updated accordingly to reflect changes within the plan in 2020–2021. This section will be translated into Spanish to meet SCOG’s Title VI Plan responsibilities and increase access to SCOG for persons with limited English proficiency.
- The *Guiding the Plan* section will be updated as necessary. Most changes in this chapter are anticipated to be in the public participation section which describes how the public was involved with the RTP update.
- The plan will include an updated *Relationship to Other Plans* section which includes growth forecasts for population and employment growth, among other elements.
- The plan update will revise the *Transportation Framework & Policies* section which includes regional goals and policies for transportation. Existing goals and policies should be evaluated to see if they still seem reasonable for the region and determine if any should be removed, added or reworded. Any revisions to the Skagit County Countywide Planning Policies for transportation will be incorporated into this section.
- The plan will include updated definitions, data and maps for Regional Transportation Facilities including: regional transit routes, park-and-rides and stations; regional non-motorized facilities; regional air transportation facilities; state and county ferry systems; strategic freight facilities; National Highway System and Strategic Highway Network; state routes; and other regional roadways. These are in the *Transportation Improvements & Programs* section.
- The plan will include updated regional transportation projects, which are also in the *Transportation Improvements & Programs* section. It is envisioned that several projects will drop off the list of projects due to completion or changing priorities, and that new projects will be added.
- The plan will include an updated *Environmental Constraints* section.
- The plan will include an updated *Financial Constraints* section including new revenue forecasts out to 2040, and updated funding assumptions for reasonably expected funding of transportation projects. Estimates of funding available must be developed cooperatively with WSDOT and Skagit Transit.
- Also within the *Financial Constraints* section will be an updated fiscally constrained section, which lists the projects which can reasonably be expected to be funded out

to 2045, and an illustrative list of projects which may be funded if additional, unanticipated funding becomes available.

- A new *Performance Management* section will be prepared addressing federal performance-based planning requirements. A system performance report will be prepared that includes baseline data for the regional transportation system. Federal rulemakings published from 2016–2019 in the Federal Register will guide the preparation of RTP performance management elements.

## **DELIVERABLES**

The following deliverables are documents anticipated for the plan update process for approval/adoption by the Transportation Policy Board:

- Public involvement plan in June 2020
- Draft Skagit 2045 in January 2021
- Final Skagit 2045 in March 2021<sup>1</sup>

## **STAFFING**

SCOG staff will lead the RTP update process and devote staff time as necessary. Various staffs from the member jurisdictions of SCOG are also anticipated to assist as well through the Technical Advisory Committee.

A consulting firm will assist with an update to the regional travel demand model, and assist with utilizing the model as part of the plan update.

## **MEETINGS**

Meetings of the TPB will be held every month, or as necessary, until RTP adoption in 2021. Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee for SCOG are also anticipated every month, or as necessary, with recommendations made by the committee to the Transportation Policy Board throughout the planning process.

## **SCHEDULE**

The proposed schedule for the 2020–2021 update to the Regional Transportation Plan follows on the next page.

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<sup>1</sup> The final RTP must be adopted by March 2021 to ensure that the Skagit Council of Governments, as the metropolitan planning organization in Skagit County, maintains a federally compliant metropolitan transportation plan.

## SCHEDULE<sup>2</sup> FOR 2020–2021 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Tasks	2020												2021			
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Scope of work		Discuss		Approve												
Public involvement					Discuss	Approve										
Data and modeling																
Regional transportation system								Discuss								
Priorities, policies and goals								Discuss								
Call for projects									Discuss							
Financial plan												Discuss				
Project prioritization												Discuss				
Performance management												Discuss				
Environmental constraints												Discuss				
Draft plan													Release			
Public comment period																
Final plan																Adopt
Submit plan																

<sup>2</sup> Tasks and expected dates subject to revision.

Legend		
	=	Month of Task
Discuss, Approve, Release, Adopt	=	Anticipated SCOG Policy Board Action