

WAC 468-86-020 Purpose/intent. (1) The regional transportation planning program creates a formal mechanism for local governments and the state to coordinate transportation planning for regional transportation facilities. The act authorized the creation of regional transportation planning organizations (RTPO) by local governments to coordinate transportation planning among jurisdictions and develop a regional transportation plan. The regional transportation planning program is available to all counties and cities statewide (RCW 47.80.020).

(2) The legislature has authorized a grant program to fund this work. The department has the authority to administer this grant program, and to develop in cooperation with the RTPOs:

(a) Minimum planning standards for the development of a regional transportation plan;

(b) The RTPO regional transportation improvement program;

(c) Planning guidelines and principles;

(d) Certification standards for the transportation portion of local comprehensive plans and county-wide planning policies;

(e) The adoption of LOS standards on state transportation facilities; and

(f) RTPO regional transportation strategies.

(3) The purpose of the minimum planning standards is to guide RTPOs in the use of the regional transportation planning grants, and in the development of planning products under the program. Work proposed by each regional transportation planning organization shall be included in a work program that demonstrates adherence to the planning standards within this chapter. The intent of the department is to provide guidance that is sufficient to ensure a minimum level of consistency across the state, while providing flexibility for regions to meet specific mobility needs.

(4) The department will achieve this purpose through the establishment of these rules and through the cooperative development and maintenance of a set of RTPO planning standards and guidelines. Copies of these standards and guidelines will be available through the department's transportation planning office.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 47.80.070 and SHB 1928, Section 5. WSR 97-09-046 (Order 169), § 468-86-020, filed 4/15/97, effective 5/16/97.]