

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Les Reardanz, General Manager

DATE: March 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Consideration of Modification to the Whatcom Smart Trips Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom Council of Governments to Extend the Agreement's Term

Attachments: (1) Proposed modification #4 of interlocal agreement
(2) Original interlocal agreement

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the attached modification to the Whatcom Smart Trips interlocal agreement with the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this modification is to continue the WTA/WCOG partnership on Whatcom Smart Trips (Smart Trips). Smart Trips is a strategically valuable program to the community, the environment and both WTA and the WCOG.

Smart Trips is the regional transportation demand management program for Whatcom County and is a partnership among local governments, public agencies, employers, merchants, and schools. Its objective is to increase walking, biking, transit and ridesharing trips (e.g., vanpool) as a percentage of total trips. Individuals and communities benefit when more daily trips are made by walking, bicycling, sharing rides and riding the bus through such things as increased citizen health, better environment, less congestion, and greater mobility (especially for non-drivers). The Program's efforts include education, assistance, and incentives. The program is jointly operated by WCOG and WTA.

BACKGROUND

The WTA and WCOG signed an agreement to implement the Smart Trips program in March 2017. The parties amended that agreement multiple times extending it through March 31, 2023.

The WTA and WCOG both have identified Smart Trips as a key component to their long-range transportation plans. To that end WTA, on behalf of both Parties and the Smart Trips program, applied for a Washington State grant to enhance the Program. If

successful, that grant would be for the next two biennia, which begins on July 1, 2023 and runs through June 30, 2027. In anticipation of a successful grant application, the Parties are currently developing a new interlocal that would replace the underlying one (Attachment 2). We expect to bring that back to the WTA and WCOG governing bodies for approval before July 1, 2023. Accordingly, the Parties only need a short-term extension now, as reflected in Modification #4 (Attachment 1).

FISCAL IMPACT

WTA retains its obligation of paying \$50,000 annually and to provide staff time to help implement the Program. These expenses are in the 2023 budget. Accordingly, there is no new fiscal impact associated with this action.