

TSP Implementation

GOAL 12:

To implement the adopted goals, objectives, policies, implementation strategies, projects, and programs of the downtown Vancouver transportation system plan

Objective 12.1:

To utilize the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan as the legal basis and foundation for decision-making in transportation-related issues.

Policy 12.1.1: The City of Vancouver shall use the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan as the legal basis and policy foundation for actions by decision-makers, advisory bodies, staff, and citizens in transportation issues. The goals, objectives, policies, implementation strategies, principles, maps, and recommended projects shall be considered in all decision-making processes that impact or are impacted by the transportation system.

Policy 12.1.2: The City of Vancouver shall use the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan to:

- a. Describe the classification or function of all streets within the downtown Vancouver planning area. Policies found in the Plan shall be used to develop connective local street circulation patterns.
- b. Review and revise the existing street design standards in the *Vancouver Municipal Code* for more direct and appropriate application in the downtown grid network.

- c. Require new development to provide adequate accessibility, as defined by the *Vancouver Municipal Code*, for all travel modes within a development and in coordination with existing and other proposed development. Street design standards in the *Vancouver Municipal Code* are to be used to secure adequate public street and sidewalk facilities.

- d. Identify measures and programs to be undertaken to enhance mobility for all travel modes.

- e. Form the basis from which identified projects are placed into the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and into regional and state transportation improvement programs (MTIP).

- f. Establish funding and project construction priorities when preparing funding scenarios and measures.

Objective 12.2:

To utilize the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan as the basis for prioritizing projects in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.



Policy 12.2.1: The City of Vancouver shall derive, in part, the projects in Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program from the projects and needs identified in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan. Transportation projects contained in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program shall be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies, and needs identified in the Plan.

Policy 12.2.2: The City of Vancouver shall include those projects and programs in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan that are of regional or statewide significance, or require the use of state or federal funding, in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Objective 12.3:

To utilize the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan in the consideration of pertinent permit reviews and land use actions.

Policy 12.3.1: The City of Vancouver shall consider and apply the goals, objectives, policies, projects, implementation strategies, and maps contained in

Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan in the review of land use actions and development applications.

Objective 12.4:

To establish a process to regularly review, confirm and update the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan.

Policy 12.4.1: The City of Vancouver shall hold annual workshops to review the planning and status of the projects and programs contained in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan.

Policy 12.4.2: Every five years the City of Vancouver shall conduct a reassessment of the planning assumptions, analysis methods, and findings and recommendations. The Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan shall be updated, accordingly, based on the study reassessment.

Need for Implementation

Once developed, a plan is just a collection of words and good intentions. It has no effectiveness unless its goals, objectives, and policies are adopted as a foundation for decision-making. Its recommended projects and programs will not be undertaken unless designed and financed. In essence, a plan is only as good as the actions taken to implement it.

Legal Basis of the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan

Implementing the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan begins with the establishment of its legal standing through adoption. The Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan will be adopted by City Council as an element of the *Vancouver Comprehensive Plan*. The Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan is considered a detailed component of the Comprehensive Plan; and, therefore, has the same weight, or legal standing, as the Comprehensive Plan. The goals, objectives, policies, maps and projects contained in both the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan are legally adopted and binding.

When new studies (e.g. Vancouver City-Wide TSP) or neighborhood plans develop recommendations that would improve upon the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan, the Plan can be amended to reflect those changes. Amendments to the Plan require a public hearing and vote of approval by City Council.

Policy Foundation for Decision-Making

The Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan provides the policy foundation for City decision-makers, Staff, advisory bodies, and citizens. The goals, objectives, and policies of the Plan are to be considered in all decision-making processes that impact, or are impacted by, the transportation

system. Specifically, the Plan is to guide decisions involving:

The Function and Location of Streets

The Plan describes, through the use of maps and descriptions the classification, or function, of all public streets within the downtown Vancouver planning area. It also describes the approximate alignment of planned arterial and collector streets.

Land Use Development

The Plan contains policies and recommendations that require new development to provide adequate accessibility for all travel modes within the development, and system coordination with existing and planned development. The Plan also guides the development of new street system elements as development occurs.

Transportation Programs

This Plan identifies measures and programs to be undertaken to increase mobility for all travel modes.

Capital Investments

The project and program recommendations contained within the Plan form the basis from which projects are placed into the *Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, *The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)*, The State of Washington TIP, and annual City budget.

Funding Priorities

The projects and programs recommended in the Plan are prioritized based on need and general timeframe. In particular, the pedestrian projects were ranked based on select criteria and prioritization methods (see *Chapter 4 – Pedestrian System Plan*). These priorities should be considered when preparing funding scenarios and measures. It is understood that priorities may change over time, and other factors need to be considered when preparing funding and construction priorities.



Relationship with the Vancouver Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

The City of Vancouver *Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* is a six-year implementation plan for the City's capital construction and operations projects. The major transportation-related projects contained in future TIP's will be derived, in part, from the projects and needs identified in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan. All transportation projects contained in the TIP, whether major or minor, must be consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and needs identified in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan.

Relationship with Land Use Actions and Development Review

In accordance with requirements contained in the *Vancouver Municipal Code*, the adopted goals, objectives, policies, projects and maps of the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan must be considered and applied in the review and approval of land use actions and development applications.

Component of Regional Transportation Plans

The Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan has been developed in relation to the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)* for Clark County (updated and adopted October 5, 1999) which makes recommendations for local plan development for the City of Vancouver and other jurisdictions in the region. The MTP was recently updated and adopted by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in October, 1999.

Metropolitan Transportation

Improvement Program

Just as the Vancouver TIP is the primary implementing document for the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan, the *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)* is the implementing mechanism for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MTIP contains all projects of regional significance from each of the region's jurisdictions. Projects requiring the use of state or federal funds must also be included in the MTIP. Project priorities and the assignment of federal funds are reviewed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee of the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), which consists of elected officials from each participating local jurisdiction, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. The MTIP is updated regularly - the most recent update dated October 5, 1999 for the 2000-2002 time frame. Some of the projects and programs identified in the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan will constitute a significant portion of the MTIP.

Amending the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan

With the detailed elements of the 20-year plan and the broader principles contained in the long-range strategy, the Downtown Vancouver TSP is designed to be relevant for the 20 year planning horizon. However, like all plans, circumstances change, assumptions become modified, and new priorities are developed. As a living document, the Downtown Vancouver TSP has been prepared for an efficient amendment process to address ongoing transportation issues.

One of the plan's objectives is to establish a process to regularly update the Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan. Policies for the regular review and update of the plan, including annual technical policy workshops and full plan reassessments (every five years), are provided in the plan to help achieve this objective.