



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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September 29, 2016

Mr. Dick Nelson
122 NW 50th Street
Seattle, WA 98107-3419

Dear Mr. Nelson:

On August 9, 2016, the Washington State Department of Transportation received your petition for amendment of the existing rule on least cost planning with the intent to provide additional guidance on least cost planning requirements for regional transportation proposals.

WSDOT has carefully considered your petition and we appreciate your thoughtful suggestions. As with your previous petition from this summer, we have determined that the current informal policy and checklists together with the rule in Washington Administrative Code (WAC 468-86-030 and 468-86-080) provide important flexibility in working with the variety of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in Washington State. We continue to believe that the current rule is sufficient, and so we respectfully deny your request to amend the existing rule.

We understand your concern regarding the timing of conducting least cost planning, the requirements that least cost planning should address, and that the RTPOs should produce separate publicly available documents. However, the state's RTPOs are each unique agencies, with individual processes and timelines, and are formed under state statute as voluntary organizations of local governments. The current least cost planning guidance to RTPOs was developed in collaboration with those organizations and is deemed to be sufficient for the processes they use to develop regional plans or other proposals.

Within this guidance each RTPO determines when and how best to plan for the transportation infrastructure and service needs of its region. They use available tools and methodologies that they deem relevant and appropriate to their circumstances, including the timing of using tools, methodologies, and guidance, and how to apply these at different scales. WSDOT continues to emphasize that methodologies should be appropriate to the region for which a plan is developed.

Each RTPO conducts its regional planning process consistent with state requirements for public access to information, and draw upon the publicly developed local

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comprehensive plans of their members. They conduct extensive public outreach in the development of the plans, and publish their plans and other materials in publicly accessible formats. The RTPOs have very limited resources for developing and preparing their plans, so producing separate documents is a determination they must make for their own circumstances.

We do appreciate and share your interest in making available current practices that will assist the RTPOs in developing informed performance-based plans.

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.330(3) you have the right to appeal our denial of your petition to the Governor by submitting such appeal directly to him within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Millar', is written over the printed name.

Roger Millar, PE, AICP
Secretary of Transportation

RM:er

cc: Amy Scarton, WSDOT
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT