



whatcom council of governments

## Memo

**To:** Whatcom MPO/RTPO Transportation Policy Board (WTPB)  
**Date:** July 12, 2017  
**From:** Hugh Conroy, Director of Planning *HC*  
**Subject:** STBG funding of WCOG activities if regional obligation targets are missed.

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### Background

Given the distinct possibility that the WCOG region could miss its required target for annual obligation of previously awarded federal funds, staff is proposing that the Policy Board give contingency approval to obligate STBG funds to unfunded priority programs and projects (as listed in WCOG’s Unified Planning Work Program – UPWP). With contingency approval, our region could benefit from the advancement of these desired activities rather than have unobligated funds possibly redirected to other regions in the state as would be required under WSDOT’s obligation authority (OA) policy.

### Proposed activities and suggested contingency-funding amounts

#### 1. Improved regional transportation data collection and analysis

As discussed in WCOG’s SFY 2018-10 UPWP, needs and opportunities have emerged over the last few years for WCOG to support the improvement of regional transportation planning which there is not currently adequate funding to pursue. The table below summarizes the needs discussed in the UPWP and gives estimated costs of conducting the activities over three years.

Activity	Annual cost	Years	Three-year cost
Continued WCOG staffing of improved data analysis	\$105,000	3	\$315,000
External station counts (collaboration w/ WSDOT & SCOG)	\$90,000	1	\$90,000
Expanded regional traffic counts (all modes)	\$20,000	2	\$40,000
Expanded collection of turning movement counts	\$20,000	2	\$40,000
Acquisition of third party system data (e.g. INRIX, HERE, etc.)	\$20,000	3	\$60,000
Addition of behavioral data collection tied to household survey	\$25,000	3	\$75,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$620,000</b>

#### 2. Whatcom Smart Trips

As discussed in the UPWP, Whatcom Smart Trips, our region’s transportation demand management strategy, does not yet have full funding for SFY 2019-2020. Staff proposes a contingency-based funding allocation of \$200,000 for these two years.

### Requested motion

“Approve contingent allocation of STBG funds to current, unfunded priorities Improved Regional Data Collection & Analysis, \$620,000; and Whatcom Smart Trips, \$200,000; if the Whatcom region is not able to meet its 2017 obligation target and would otherwise lose these funds through sanction.”