



**For Immediate Release
September 20, 2011**

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**Public Meeting Seeks Opinion:
Is the Planning Process Meeting the Needs of the Public?**

Federal law requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations such as Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) to go through a Planning Certification Review every four years. The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will jointly conduct that review of SRTC Sept. 27- 29, 2011. As part of the process, **a public meeting will be held to provide the opportunity for area residents to express thoughts and comments on the transportation planning process and how it meets the needs of the area.** The meeting is Tues., Sept. 27 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at SRTC, 221 W. First Ave., Suite 310, Spokane, WA.

The meeting is an opportunity for the community to get involved in the regional government decision-making process that will shape future transportation investments in the region for years to come. Public agencies, private organizations, community groups, and the general public are encouraged to attend and provide comments.

Elements of the certification review include: the organization and management of the planning process, agency agreements and the cooperative planning process, long-range plan development, programming of transportation projects, public involvement and outreach, congestion management, project selection for federal funding, financial planning, freight mobility, air quality conformity, intelligent transportation system planning, environmental justice, and integration of Title VI in the planning process.

Comments on the certification review may also be submitted to the federal agencies in writing at the following addresses:

Sidney Stecker
Federal Highway Administration
711 S. Capital Way Suite 501
Olympia, WA 98501
Email: Sidney.Stecker@fhwa.dot.gov
Phone: (360) 753-9555

Ned Conroy
Federal Transit Administration
915 Second Street, Room 3142
Seattle, WA 98174-1002
Email: Ned.conroy@dot.gov
Phone: (206) 220-4318

For more information, please contact FHWA or FTA at the contacts listed above.

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For special accommodations or translation services, call 509/343-6370. SRTC assures nondiscrimination in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.O. 100.259) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.