

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02: REQUEST AND AUTHORIZE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

On the current CTA agenda, Resolution No. 2017-01 would approve an interlocal agreement (314 Agreement) relating to responsibilities for transportation planning in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The 314 Agreement is a federal requirement of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), the State, and transit agencies. The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is the lead agency for the MPO in this region.

RiverCities Transit and City of Longview staff have been working with the MPO to develop an agreement to meet the needs of our region, and the CTA is a party to the agreement due to its role in planning and establishing service levels for public transit. Although transit staff participates on the MPO technical advisory committee, and CTA member agencies Longview, Kelso, and Cowlitz County have their general agency representatives on the CWCOG board, there is no specific transit representation on the CWCOG board. With the 314 Agreement establishing formal roles and responsibilities, and because CWCOG board approval of transportation plans and funding is critical to maintaining and enhancing transit planning and funding, staff recommends the CTA become a member of the CWCOG to ensure transit participation in the MPO planning processes at the CWCOG board level. At this time, Associate Membership (non-voting) is the recommended membership status due to limitations in the CWCOG Articles of Incorporation. Associate Membership on the CWCOG board is subject to CWCOG board approval.

Resolution No. 2017-02 would request and authorize Associate membership in the CWCOG and designate the Transit Manager as the CTA primary representative to the CWCOG board, and the Transit Supervisors and City of Longview Public Works Director as alternative representatives.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

The current annual cost for CWCOG Associate Membership is \$547.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-02.