

## INTRODUCTION

*Part of the mission of the LCVMPO is to ensure that the transportation planning and development activities of participating jurisdictions, agencies, and interest groups are well coordinated. Coordinated efforts help ensure the optimal use of limited local, state, and federal resources.*

The Lewis Clark Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (LCVMPO) was officially recognized by then Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and by then Washington Governor Gary Locke on December 3, 2003, and on December 9, 2003 (respectively). The LCVMPO is responsible for conducting a continuing, coordinated and comprehensive transportation planning process in the Lewis Clark Valley, consistent with Federal and State Laws. The work of the LCVMPO includes regional transportation policy development, public involvement, technical studies, and project planning and programming for an urban population of approximately 51,000, inclusive of the cities of Asotin and Clarkston, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho as well as the counties of Asotin County, Washington, and Nez Perce County, Idaho.

Part of the mission of the LCVMPO is to ensure that the transportation planning and development activities of participating jurisdictions, agencies, and interest groups are well coordinated. Coordinated efforts help ensure the optimal use of limited local, state, and federal resources.

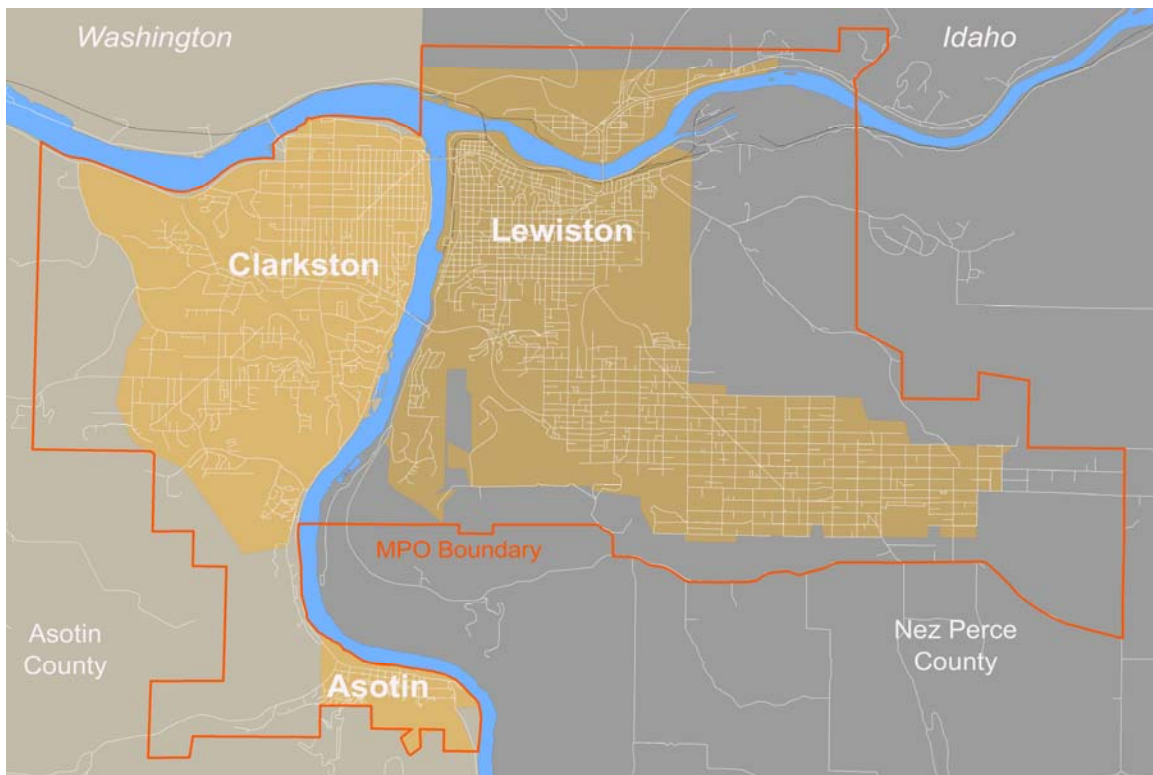


Figure 1: Site Map

## **Purpose of the LRTP**

*The purpose of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is to identify and document future transportation needs in the Lewis & Clark Valley metropolitan planning area, to validate projects in the existing Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), and to recommend a phased implementation program that can be realistically put into action with anticipated funds. The plan is a product of regional collaboration and to outline a framework of projects that meet the transportation needs of a community, to the extent allowed by existing and future resources.*

Long range transportation planning does not involve specific project design; rather the details are left to the responsibility of the appropriate government agency implementing each project. This plan instead provides a broad mural of the future transportation system, using data and tools to predict the anticipated demands of the traveling public. As time progresses, further study will help create more specific designs tailored to satisfy demand or improve existing conditions, as well as incorporate new information or system technology advancements. This plan also addresses the uncertainties of funding; if adequate funding does not receive public support then the plan must be revised accordingly to reflect the reduction in transportation system enhancements.

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the designated planning body responsible for transportation planning and project selection within its region. Urbanized areas with a population of more than 50,000 must have an MPO to implement planning and programming. In addition, eligibility for federal funding consideration requires that the region also have a federally approved Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that addresses, at a minimum, a 20-year planning horizon. The plan must be developed according to specific federal laws and guidelines developed by the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Lewis Clark Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (LCVMPO) meets those federal requirements and thereby securing the region's eligibility for federal funds for use on highway, transit, non-motorized, and multimodal systems. Federal and state transportation funds flow through LCVMPO each year and are made available to the region. Future transportation projects intending to utilize federal transportation funds must be identified in the financially constrained LRTP (for more details on the planning history and approach of this project please see APPENDIX I).