

WSDOT Build Assumptions for Travel Demand Model Updates

May 2020

WSDOT projects are funded by the Washington State Legislature on a biennial basis; the currently funded projects (2019-2021) are available [here](#). However, transportation modeling for the Periodic comprehensive plan update requires project funding assumptions beyond a two-year timeframe.

If you are, or work with, a jurisdiction or consultant that performs its own travel demand modeling, deciding what to include and not to include in your modeling can be somewhat obscure and confusing. Here are the existing statutes:

- [RCW 47.06 040\(2\)](#), [RCW 36.70A.070\(6\)\(a\)\(iii\)\(F\)](#) and [WAC 365-196-430\(2\)\(g\)\(v\)](#) state that the transportation element shall identify state and local system needs *consistent with the statewide multimodal transportation plan [Washington Transportation Plan 2035] and funded in the WSDOT Ten-Year Improvement Program [accessible through the annually updated WSDOT Project Delivery Plan]*. State and local system needs must also be consistent with the *regional transportation plan and regional growth strategies*, [from your [Metropolitan or Regional Transportation Planning Organization](#)] and must also include plans for *new or expanded public transit*.
- [RCW 36.70A.070\(6\)\(a\)\(iv\)\(B\)](#) also says that the transportation element of a comprehensive plan shall include *a multiyear financing plan which should be coordinated with the OFM Ten-Year Investment Program*.

In the past, WSDOT funding and build assumptions were published in the [Highway System Plan](#), but this document is no longer current.*

WSDOT therefore endorses these two sources for your future highway build assumptions:

- **2020 – 2030** [WSDOT 2019 Project Delivery Plan](#). This plan is annually updated to ensure alignment with the currently enacted budget. It is organized by program, county, and [WSDOT Region](#).
- **2020 – 2050** **The Transportation Plan and Growth Strategy** of your region's [Metropolitan or Regional Transportation Planning Organization](#).

The above two sources are likely to contain only projects that will impact highway capacity; multimodal and other projects that could alter results from your local model may not be included. **WSDOT strongly recommends the above projects be vetted and expanded by contacting your local WSDOT Region Office *prior* to update of your model's future network.**

Our Community & Network Planning Office can provide you with the best Region contact:

Teri.Chang@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-705-7918

*The WSDOT Statewide Planning Office is beginning an update of the Highway System Plan. It is expected to include recommended funding levels for programs (in place of a project list), financial constraints, all highway modes, rigorous community engagement, and project evaluation criteria. For further information about the HSP update, please contact: Jeremy Jewkes, 360-705-7508, HSP@wsdot.wa.gov.