

Washington State Public Transportation Plan 2015-2035



Executive Summary



VISION:

All transportation partners in Washington state will work together to provide a system of diverse and integrated public transportation options. People throughout the state will use these options to make transportation choices that enable their families, communities, economy and environment to thrive.

Washington's multimodal transportation system supports seven million residents, a half million businesses, healthy economies and vibrant communities throughout our state. Washington's population is projected to grow more than 20 percent over the next 20 years, increasing demand for all transportation modes at a time when traditional methods for funding mobility are increasingly unsustainable. Concurrently, emerging technologies and business models are redefining the ways in which Washington residents and communities connect, travel and transact; our transportation infrastructure is aging; the number of people with special transportation needs is growing, and the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent.

These challenges and opportunities necessitate changes in the way we plan and manage public transportation in Washington. To this end, the Washington State Public Transportation Plan offers a blueprint to further

integrate all modes of transportation to meet the needs of Washington's people and communities. This update of the state's 20-year public transportation plan affirms the state's role in public transportation as defined in state law and described in the latest Washington Transportation Plan (WTP 2035). It emphasizes performance and the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) practical solutions approach.

Near-term actions in the plan describe how public transportation partners will kick start progress toward the goals. See pages 57-88 for more information.

The plan represents a partnership among agencies, service providers, community organizations and others throughout Washington. WSDOT will continue to engage partners and will regularly report status and results.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES

This plan sets forth five goals for Washington’s system of public transportation, strategies for supporting each goal, and a program of near-term actions for each goal to be complete by December 2017.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

CULTIVATE THRIVING COMMUNITIES BY SUPPORTING HEALTH, EQUITY, PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGIES

- » Research, test and share tools and best practices to advance sustainable and equitable transportation planning and investment
- » Quantify and communicate the economic, environmental, health and community benefits of public transportation to Washington state
- » Test ways to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of transportation strategies that support people throughout their lives
- » Align and coordinate transportation investments to support local comprehensive plans and community priorities, such as improving first- and last-mile pedestrian connections to transit or connections between buses and ferries

ACCESS

PROVIDE AND SUSTAIN TRANSPORTATION THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ABILITIES AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS TO ACCESS JOBS, GOODS, SERVICES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIES

- » Allow for system gaps and deficits to be more quickly identified and addressed; for example, during routine congestion, incidents, emergencies and disaster response
- » Remove barriers, such as conditions on special needs funding and other policy restrictions, and incentivize collaboration and integration between service providers
- » Work with a broad range of partners to plan and invest based on systemwide needs, priorities and performance

ADAPTIVE TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY

USE NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION ASSETS AND MEET CHANGING CUSTOMER NEEDS

STRATEGIES

- » Use technology to improve access for people with special transportation needs and maximize efficiency and effectiveness, (e.g., develop systems to help providers better coordinate service delivery)
- » Develop and implement integrated, multimodal system improvements that move more people in fewer vehicles and at least cost
- » Foster innovation to respond to emerging market opportunities and other system changes through public-private partnerships and agency coordination



CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

ENHANCE EVERYONE'S TRANSPORTATION EXPERIENCE BY PROVIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THAT IS SAFE, SEAMLESS, PLEASANT, CONVENIENT, RELIABLE, RELEVANT AND UNDERSTANDABLE

STRATEGIES

- » Deploy best practices in safety and security, taking into account issues of equity
- » Foster additional collaboration among Washington state transportation providers to identify, implement and sustain solutions that improve the public transportation experience
- » Increase consideration and use of multimodal options by piloting systems and programs to help the public better understand, consider and use multimodal options; support widespread adoption of proven approaches
- » Develop tools and processes to promote timely adoption of innovations that improve the customer experience



TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM GUARDIANSHIP

PROTECT, CONSERVE AND MANAGE WASHINGTON'S TRANSPORTATION ASSETS IN A MANNER THAT MAXIMIZES AND SUSTAINS THEIR VALUE TO THE PUBLIC, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

STRATEGIES

- » Manage, preserve, maintain and operate the transportation network as a complete multimodal system
- » Develop a dashboard that monitors Washington's transportation system around multimodal performance indicators that build toward a more integrated, connected multimodal system
- » Test pilot service concepts to increase vehicle occupancy and use of public transportation, including transit, active transportation, ride-hailing, telework and more



Visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/TransportationPlan to get further information about the plan and the actions partner organizations are taking to achieve its goals and vision.

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- » Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended
- » Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
- » Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 49.60 Discrimination - Human Rights Commission

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