



We can't go it alone

To make transportation more sustainable we need help from community groups, businesses, local government, regional planning organizations and you. Each of us must take important steps, such as carpooling whenever possible and using real-time traffic information to avoid congestion and reduce emissions. Small steps will make a difference, particularly when thousands of us participate. But we need to take bigger steps, too.

Engaged parents and teachers must help create the next generation of great engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs. Innovative businesses must create products and services that do more, cost less, work efficiently and conserve natural resources. Local governments must continue to take steps to help ensure that transportation and land use decisions are more sustainable.

Together we can make our transportation system support a growing and evolving economy, a healthy environment and thriving communities.

For more information

Paula Hammond, P.E.

Secretary of Transportation
www.wsdot.wa.gov/sustainabletransportation
360-705-7054
HammonP@wsdot.wa.gov



Sustainable Transportation

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Good for Business, Communities and Our Environment

Sustainability means many things to many people: growing businesses and our economy, spending time and money wisely, preserving our natural environment, investing in people and communities. Recently, these principals have taken on new relevance and urgency.

All around us change is accelerating. Technology and innovation are driving industries in new directions. Natural resources and community priorities are shifting. Washingtonians are adapting to this change by focusing on sustainability. They're making decisions at home and at work that consider immediate needs and set a sound course for the future. WSDOT is taking the same approach.

Washington's roads, rails and waterways are lifelines to our economy and communities. To continue moving people, information and goods safely and efficiently, WSDOT is leading efforts to evolve our state's transportation system. The potential rewards are great,

from job growth and greater energy independence to stronger communities and a healthier environment.

Turning challenges into opportunities

At WSDOT, we're addressing traffic choke points on our busiest commute and trade routes, retrofitting concrete to extend the life of our roadways and engineering new structures to use fewer raw materials. And we're using technology to improve traffic flow and make the most of existing transportation system. We're turning change into opportunity by seeking sustainable solutions in everything we do.

We are working to improve your life, transform the economy and preserve our environment. But we can't go it alone. We're collaborating with community groups, businesses, federal agencies, local governments and regional planning organizations. You can help.

At WSDOT, a sustainable transportation system preserves the environment, is durable, takes into account how we build and the materials we use, and is managed and operated using policies and strategies that meet society's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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WSDOT is making transportation more sustainable in a multitude of ways, small and large. Here are some examples of what we're doing.



Mobility and traffic operations

- Reducing collisions and improving traffic flow with electronic, variable speed-limit and lane-status signs
- Providing real-time traffic information over the highway and through a wide range of media to help people avoid backups
- Synchronizing traffic signals
- Tolling electronically to eliminate toll-booth lines
- Responding quickly to help clear traffic incidents
- Improving traffic flow with reversible express lanes, ramp meters, roundabouts, HOV lanes and HOV/transit ramps

Fuels and energy

- Leading development of the country's first trans-national interstate for electric and other alternative-fuel vehicles with the West Coast Green Highway from Canada to Mexico
- Powering some state-owned ferries, trucks and cars with ultra-low-sulfur fuel and biodiesel blends to support new markets for alternative fuels
- Using teleconferencing more often and minimizing business travel
- Upgrading our fleet with more fuel-efficient vehicles
- Evaluating policies to identify potential energy and cost savings
- Installing solar-powered traffic control systems

Economic vitality and stewardship

- Strategically repairing aging infrastructure and addressing key traffic chokepoints to keep workers and freight moving
- Investing in rail lines to get goods to market faster and preserve highways
- Improving access to and from ports by separating freight vehicles from rail and light-vehicle traffic
- Boosting incident response and traffic management during rush hours to help commuters get to work reliably
- Employing private contractors and their workers
- Maintaining rural access to support agricultural and recreation

Preservation and maintenance

- Using longer-lasting pavement and recycled materials
- Investing in maintenance and reinforcing concrete pavement to extend the life of critical infrastructure
- Cutting maintenance costs and herbicide use by choosing native plants for roadsides
- Retrofitting structures to help them better withstand an earthquake or other disaster
- Sophisticated snowplow equipment allows precise roadway salt application techniques and tracking, providing maximum safety benefits while using the minimal amount of salt necessary

Safety

- Installing cable median barriers to help prevent severe collisions
- Investing in incident response to help Washington State Patrol clear incidents quicker and reduce the risk of secondary collisions
- Cleaning catch basins and drains to prevent road flooding
- Retrofitting bridges and structures to save lives during earthquakes
- Increasing snow and ice removal on roadways
- Clearing brush and trimming trees to improve sight-distance and safety
- Building roundabouts at intersections to smooth traffic flow and reduce the risk of high-speed, head-on and t-bone collisions

Design and construction

- Using innovative engineering to design and build new structures that can endure a harsher climate and use fewer raw materials
- Using incentives, penalties and innovative contracting to minimize traffic disruptions and build projects efficiently
- Designing highway projects and building barriers to reduce noise in communities near our freeways
- Using construction best practices to reduce noise, dust, idling and waste and save money

Environment and adaptation

- Removing barriers for fish and protecting endangered species by replacing or fixing culverts
- Addressing stormwater pollution by preventing erosion and capturing and filtering roadway water runoff
- Connecting habitats in critical areas to enhance wildlife migration
- Restoring project-site vegetation and landscape back to its natural state
- Controlling erosion during construction by spreading straw, planting grass, building ponds and taking other measures

Community partnerships

- Integrating bike and foot paths into highway projects
- Investing in programs that help people carpool, vanpool, ride the bus or train, bicycle, walk, compress their work week and work from home
- Tailoring highway designs to meet unique community needs
- Working with local transit agencies to build HOV/transit ramps, median transit stations and park and ride lots
- Managing traffic and our projects to help keep people moving during construction, rush hours and major events



Change is opportunity

Our climate is changing. Technology and science continue to advance. Demand for natural resources and cleaner energy continue to grow. Governor Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature are leading the way to a more sustainable transportation system and a greener economy in our state. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions supports both efforts.

Transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. We are pursuing multiple strategies to reduce these emissions, including:

- Operating our transportation system to maximize efficiency and improve traffic flow
- Lowering the carbon content of fuels
- Supporting improved vehicle technology
- Supporting efficient transportation options like carpooling; working from home; riding a bus, train, or bicycle; or shopping close to home and walking

We are working with planning organizations to help them adopt a regional approach that fits the unique needs of their community and considers the relationship between land use, transportation and greenhouse gas emissions. This will help ensure that state and local government actions will be coordinated and effective.

We are also working with transit agencies to integrate our plans to provide better service and access, share resources and reduce costs.



WSDOT's sustainability effort is also in alignment with the agency's broader **Moving Washington** strategy. Moving Washington is WSDOT's approach for developing an integrated transportation system for the 21st century. This is a framework for making decisions about how we invest, maintain and operate the transportation system. This approach is based on the state's transportation mission of keeping people and business moving by operating and improving the state's transportation system.



The purpose of Moving Washington is to develop cost-effective and coordinated investments that accomplish our objectives while supporting the state's healthy economy, environment and communities. Centered around maintaining and keeping our system safe, Moving Washington is focused on three key strategies:

- Operate the system efficiently;
- Manage demand on the system; and
- Add capacity strategically

Moving Washington is what we do. WSDOT seeks to do it reliably, responsibly and sustainably. By operating the system efficiently and managing demand, we create travel reliability. By considering the impact of the state's system on the economy, the environment and communities in a cost-effective and resource responsible manner we act responsibly and sustainably.