



Washington State
Transportation Commission

NEWS

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State Transportation Commission Adopts Washington Transportation Plan

OLYMPIA –The Washington State Transportation Commission today adopted the updated 2007-2026 Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). For the past two years, the Commission worked with Washington’s citizens, business owners, elected officials, tribes, transportation planners and others to update this 20-year transportation plan. The WTP serves as a blueprint and provides strategies to guide decisions and investments needed to develop Washington’s transportation system for the future.

“This plan is the product of a collaborative effort between the Transportation Commission and the Washington State Department of Transportation,” said Commission Chair Dick Ford. “Together, the Commission along with WSDOT staff has conducted an unprecedented level of outreach. We’ve personally met with each of the 14 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and held 15 public meetings throughout the state. The plan incorporates many of the comments we received from citizens and organizations statewide.”

The WTP guides transportation policy and investment decisions at all levels throughout the state and meets federal and state planning requirements. Recognizing a projected \$26 billion in high-priority unfunded system needs, the Commission developed five investment guidelines that set overall priorities and form the basis of the plan:

- Preservation – preserve and extend prior investments in existing transportation facilities and the services they provide to people and commerce;
- Safety – target construction projects, enforcement and education to save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property;
- Economic vitality – improve freight movement and support economic sectors that rely on the transportation system, such as agricultural, tourism and manufacturing;
- Mobility – facilitate movement of people and goods to contribute to a strong economy and a better quality of life for our citizens;
- Environmental quality and health – bring benefits to the environment and to our citizens’ health by improving the existing transportation infrastructure.

The early data and stakeholder input was the basis for the 2005 transportation budget proposal submitted to the Legislature that helped to shape last year’s Transportation Partnership Act. The Commission expects the WTP update will continue to provide guidance in future legislative sessions. Over the next two years, the Commission will work to further the plan and offer an amended version in time for the 2009 legislature. More information on the Washington Transportation Plan can be found at www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp

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