

Community Transportation Planning Office



What Is Our Focus?

The Community Transportation Planning Office (CTPO) was established in January 2010. The office's goal is to effectively coordinate local, regional, and state land use and transportation planning.

Our Challenges

Our state's population is projected to grow by more than 28 percent during the next decade. This will place even greater demands upon our transportation system: the number of vehicle miles traveled each year in Washington is projected to reach 60 billion by 2020; annual freight volumes are expected to triple by 2035.

Current funding does not meet the need to operate, maintain, and preserve the transportation system. We need more solutions beyond investments to ensure a coordinated system.

How Do We Coordinate Land Use And Transportation Planning?

CTPO staff is working to implement the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) including:

- Supporting WSDOT's regions in reviewing the transportation element of local comprehensive plans and development regulations affecting the statewide transportation system.
- Using Moving Washington and the state transportation policy goals as our guiding principles for finding solutions that work for transportation users and the system as a whole.
- Championing the use of innovative planning techniques, like scenario planning, to link the economy, transportation, environment, and land use.

What Have We Accomplished?

CTPO staff has effectively participated in local land use planning activities by:

- Developing the WSDOT Community Planning Portal.
- Developing a plan review checklist for WSDOT staff.
- Developing an internal coordination policy for reviewing local planning documents.
- Outlining opportunities for WSDOT participation in two different types of up-front State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) actions.

Washington State Policy Goals

1. Economic Vitality.
2. Preservation.
3. Safety.
4. Mobility.
5. Environment.
6. Stewardship.



- Developing a shared database of WSDOT comment letters on local plans and regulations.
- Working with MPOs and RTPs to develop scenario planning techniques.
- Hosting training sessions with the Department of Commerce on GMA elements and SEPA Planned Actions.
- Publishing and posting on the web a CTPO Newsletter covering best practices and resources.
- Working with the Department of Commerce to provide guidance to local agencies.

How Are We Positioning Ourselves For The Future?

As Washington State's Secretary of Transportation, Paula Hammond, P.E., noted "We all face daunting obstacles as we strive to build healthy communities that are prosperous and resilient in the face of an uncertain future. With a shared vision for the future and a common set of goals, we can work together to overcome those obstacles."

The CTPO is continuing to coordinate and partner with WSDOT staff, local and regional organizations, and other state agencies in order to meet our customers' needs of an integrated transportation system that works. This includes:

- Developing an online interactive map service to share transportation system data with local and regional planners to foster more collaborative planning.
- Developing guidance for local governments on access management for state highways.
- Improving our participation in up-front GMA and SEPA processes.
- Understanding and explaining risk factors to the state transportation system from future development.
- Identifying WSDOT's role in supporting economic development opportunities.
- Working on integrating demand management strategies into planning and programming efforts.

"We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there."

~ Charles F. Kettering ~
American Inventor

For More Information, Please Contact The Community Transportation Planning Office

Elizabeth Robbins
CTPO Manager
360.705.7371
elizabeth.robbsins2@wsdot.wa.gov

Karena Houser
Economic and Land Use Branch Manager
360.705.7876
karena.houser@wsdot.wa.gov

