

The Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT is currently focused on delivering the nation's largest recent state investments in transportation. The State Legislature passed state gas tax increases of 5 cents in 2003, and 9.5 cents in 2005, which will generate approximately \$12.6 billion in revenue over 16 years for projects selected by the legislature¹.

WSDOT is also responsible for

maintaining 7,048 miles of highways and 3,367 bridges and tunnels, including the longest and widest of the world's first floating bridges;

operating and maintaining the nation's largest ferry system, using 28 boats and 20 terminals to ferry about 26 million passengers and 11 million vehicles annually;

owning three of the five Amtrak Cascades train sets, and overseeing the state's investment of more than \$270 million to support Amtrak service in Washington since 1973;

protecting and preserving 139 public use general aviation airports including 16 emergency airfields and providing services to pilots;

running 76 freight railroad cars that carry grain in Eastern Washington; and

assists local transit agencies in providing bus and other transit services.

WSDOT became a cabinet agency in July 2005. The Secretary of Transportation is appointed by and reports to the Governor. WSDOT continues to work with the State Legislature and the Washington State Transportation Commission on transportation policy issues and long term investment planning.

¹Nickel increase generates \$4.2b over 10 years for 158 projects (127 highway). The 9.5 cent increase is phased in over 4 years and generates \$7.37b (\$8.47 bonded) over 16 years, to be invested in 247 projects.