



The WSDOT Community Planning Portal Is Now Open

WSDOT's Community Planning Portal is an online forum for state, regional, and local transportation planners to share transportation and land use data. The intent of the portal is to foster collaborative planning to achieve common goals, including the provision of a reliable, responsible and sustainable transportation system for the citizens of Washington.

The Community Planning Portal allows local and regional governments to:

- Access interactive online maps and fact sheets that are customized for their jurisdiction.
- Print maps, or download the data layers to use in their own GIS systems.
- Upload their own geographic data.



WSDOT encourages local and regional planners to explore this new tool and incorporate state transportation system information into their planning efforts. The portal can also be a place where WSDOT and its partners can share geographic data and work together to support economic vitality, preserve our transportation system, improve safety and mobility, protect the environment and manage our limited financial resources.

For more information about the portal, please visit the [WSDOT Community Planning Portal web page](#), or contact Karena Houser, Senior Transportation Planner, WSDOT Community Transportation Planning Office, 360.705.7876, houserk@wsdot.wa.gov.

Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST) Pilot

Developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), INVEST is a practical, web-based collection of voluntary best practices and criteria designed to help transportation agencies integrate sustainable practices into their projects, plans and programs.

WSDOT is participating in a pilot using INVEST to:

- Evaluate three recently completed corridor studies in the central Puget Sound.
- Evaluate the State Route 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program.

In addition to providing FHWA with feedback on INVEST, WSDOT hopes using this tool will help us identify promising opportunities to improve the sustainability of our current practices.

The pilot runs from July 2013 to December 2013. For more information about INVEST see [FHWA's website](#).

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Planning Resources

[The Effects of Smart Growth Policies on Travel Demand](#). This study synthesized information on the relationships between firms, households, and travel demand to develop a tool to evaluate smart growth planning scenarios. (pdf 4.84 mb)

[Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference](#).

This report discusses how demand management relates to policy objectives often included in transportation plans, how to integrate demand management into transportation planning, and tools available for evaluating demand management measures. (pdf 21.36 mb)

[2014 International Roundabout Conference](#). Sheraton Seattle Hotel. April 16-18, 2014. This conference will provide a forum for the exchange of technical and administrative information concerning all aspects of roundabouts. (pdf 149.08 kb)

[Environmental Justice](#). This is the first stand-alone guidance issued by Federal Transit Administration to address the intent of the 1994 Executive Order on Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. (Website)

[Are We There Yet?](#) This document from Reconnecting America discusses when communities—urban, suburban or rural—offer what people need, we begin to get closer to creating complete communities. (pdf 3.78 mb)



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Learn

The Learn section is a guided tour through INVEST to learn about sustainability and sustainable highways, why and how sustainability is measured, and how context influences sustainability. In addition to this background information, this section will explain what INVEST is, how it measures sustainability, how it is organized, and how to use INVEST to evaluate System Planning, Project Development and Operations & Maintenance phases of programs and projects.

To navigate the Learn section, select 'next' on the bottom each page to move through the topics sequentially, or select a topic from the Table of Contents on the right-hand side of the screen to jump to a specific topic.



Western Federal Lands, North Bank Lane, Sandpipers At High Tide

Demand Management—The Path to Greater Efficiency

Managing transportation demand is a proven strategy to enhance efficient operations of transportation systems in Washington State. It helps highways, bridges and full corridors operate with optimal traffic flow, moving more people in fewer vehicles and less time.

The Washington State Department of Transportation is expanding its use of road-tested demand management tools to improve system performance at the project level. It's a process of collaborating with affected communities and regional partners on strategies that promote efficient alternatives to driving alone in high-demand routes and peak hours.

The agency's experience with demand management tools and programs, such as a statewide Commute Trip Reduction program and the nation's largest vanpool network in the Puget Sound region, has revealed benefits not only for system performance but also for the bottom line.

Turns out improving system performance and operation efficiency means less wear and tear on roads and highways. And it often reduces or delays the need to add capacity. Simply put it makes the best use of scarce funding, allowing WSDOT to make more strategic investments.

But how can planners and engineers better integrate demand management into their projects? WSDOT has been working with the [State Smart Transportation Initiative](#) to explore how to best apply demand management at the project level, whether it's a highway safety improvement, bridge preservation or an added lane.

To begin engaging transportation planners, designers and engineers throughout the agency, WSDOT recently unveiled an infographic and [webpage](#) for an easy-to-digest overview of demand management and how it could benefit projects.

This summer, WSDOT will begin a research project with the [Center for Urban Transportation Research](#). The project, Developing Guidelines for Incorporating Demand Management into WSDOT Planning and Programming, will include a review of current practices for integrating demand management at WSDOT, new guidelines and pilot-testing results. Those interested in participating in the research project, may contact Keith Cotton at cottonk@wsdot.wa.gov.

For more information, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/choices/demand>.

Basic Approaches to Manage Demand at WSDOT

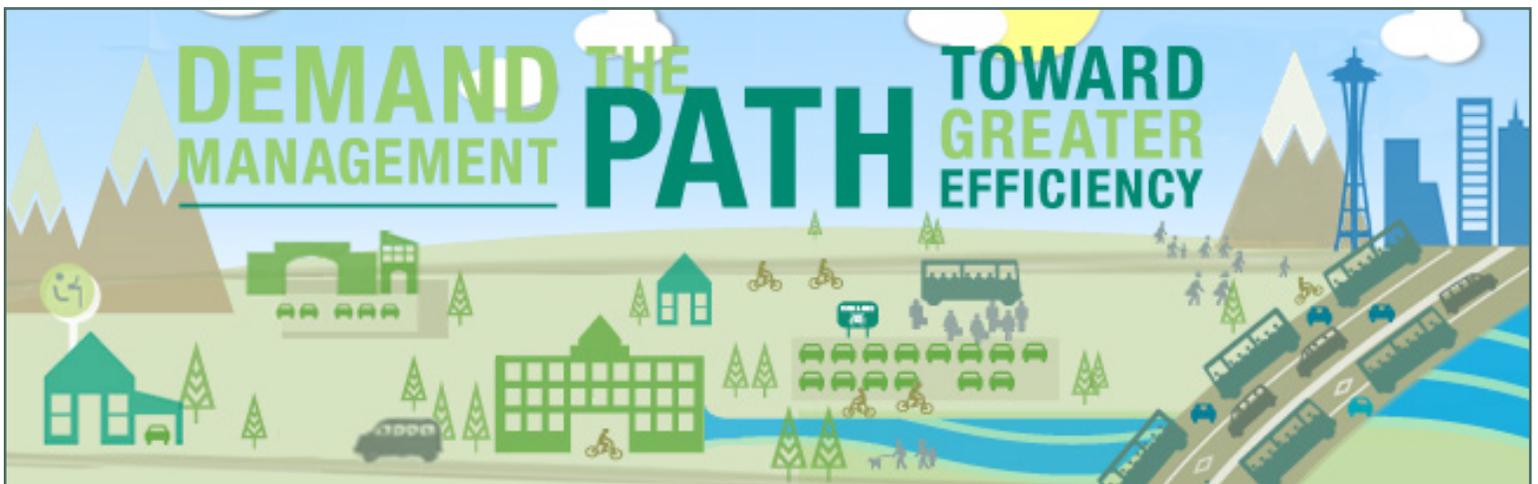
Education, promotion and outreach encourage voluntary changes in commuter behavior through awareness of existing options and incentives to drive less or shift travel plans.

Ridematching services and information help riders organize carpools and vanpools or find one-time rides.

Employer programs and incentives offer employee bicycle parking and showers, ridematching services, subsidized transit passes and the option to telework or use flexible work scheduling. Workplace programs invest about \$16 for every dollar WSDOT invests.

Land-use collaboration and coordination connects roads and bike/pedestrian paths and supports high-density, mixed-use development near transit.

User fees (e.g., freeway tolling, priced parking) encourage commuters and travelers to make efficient transportation choices, shifting demand to alternate modes, routes or times.



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ADA Information:

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.