

# Summary of 2007 SSB 5412 Codified at RCW 47.04.280

The Washington State Legislature established the following policy goals for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the state's transportation system:

- Preservation:** To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services;
- Safety:** To provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system;
- Mobility:** To improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington state;
- Environment:** To enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment; and
- Stewardship:** To continuously improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.

**LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR**

**Office of Financial Management**  
**Establish Objectives and Performance Measures for WSDOT and Other State Agencies**

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) will establish objectives and performance measures for the WSDOT and other state agencies with transportation-related responsibilities to ensure transportation system performance at local, regional, and state government levels progresses toward the attainment of the policy goals. OFM shall submit initial objectives and performance measures to the legislature for its review and shall provide copies to the commission during the 2008 legislative session. OFM shall submit to the legislature during the session in each even numbered year objectives and performance measures for its review and shall provide copies to the commission. (SSB 5412-Sec. 3.)

**Baseline Report on Progress of Policy Goals by State Transportation Agencies**

By December 2007, OFM shall submit a baseline report on the progress toward attaining the policy goals in the 2005-2007 fiscal biennium. By October 1, 2008, beginning with the development of the 2009-2011 biennial transportation budget, and by October 1st biennially thereafter, OFM shall submit to the legislature and the governor a report on the progress toward the attainment by state transportation agencies of the state transportation policy goals and objectives prescribed by statute, appropriation, and governor directive. The report must, at a minimum, include the degree to which state transportation programs have progressed toward the attainment of the policy goals as measured by the objectives and performance measures established by OFM. (SSB 5412-Sec. 4.)

**Propose a Comprehensive 10-Year Investment Program for the Preservation and Improvement Programs**

OFM shall propose a comprehensive ten-year investment program for preservation and improvement programs consistent with the policy goals. The proposed ten-year investment program must be forwarded as a recommendation by OFM to the legislature, and must be based upon the needs identified in the statewide transportation plan. (SSB 5412-Sec. 7.)

**Primary responsibility for an action is represented by the top most colored box. Support and participatory role is indicated by colored tabs.**

**Transportation Commission**  
**Policies for a Statewide Transportation System**

The Transportation Commission shall propose policies to be adopted by the governor and the legislature designed to assure the development and maintenance of a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation system which will meet the needs of the people for safe and efficient transportation services. Wherever appropriate, the policies shall provide for the use of integrated, intermodal transportation systems. The policies must be aligned with the policy goals. To this end the Commission shall:

- Develop transportation policies which are based on the policies, goals, and objectives expressed and inherent in existing state laws
- Inventory the adopted policies, goals, and objectives of the local and area-wide governmental bodies of the state and define the role of the state, regional, and local governments in determining transportation policies, in transportation planning, and in implementing the state transportation plan
- Establish a procedure for review and revision of the state transportation policy and for submission of proposed changes to the governor and the legislature;
- Integrate the statewide transportation plan with the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities, and coordinate federal and state programs directed at assisting local governments to answer such needs
- Provide for the effective coordination of state transportation planning with national transportation policy, state and local land use policies, and local and regional transportation plans and programs
- Provide for public involvement in transportation designed to elicit the public's views both with respect to adequate transportation services and appropriate means of minimizing adverse social, economic, environmental, and energy impact of transportation programs
- Conduct transportation-related studies and policy analysis to the extent directed by the legislature or governor (SSB 5412-Sec. 4.)

**Statewide Transportation Plan**

By December 2010, to prepare a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan consistent with the state's growth management goals and based on the transportation policy and applicable state and federal laws. The plan must reflect the priorities of government developed by OFM and address regional needs, including multimodal transportation planning. The plan must, at a minimum:

- Establish a vision for the development of the statewide transportation policy issues
- Identify significant statewide transportation policy issues
- Recommend statewide transportation policies and strategies to the legislature

The plan must be the product of an ongoing process that involves representatives of significant transportation interests and the general public from across the state. At least every five years, the Commission shall convene regional forums to gather citizen input on transportation issues. The commission shall consider the input gathered at the forums as it establishes the statewide transportation plan. Every four years, the plan shall be reviewed and revised, and submitted to the governor and the house of representatives and senate standing committees on transportation. The plan shall take into account federal law and regulations relating to the planning, construction, and operation of transportation facilities. (SSB 5412-Sec. 4. & 5.)

**Department of Transportation (WSDOT)**  
**The powers, duties, and functions of the Department of Transportation must be performed in a manner consistent with the policy goals set forth in RCW 47.04.280. (SSB 5412-Sec. 2.)**

**Policies for a Statewide Transportation System**

To support the achievement of the policy goals WSDOT shall:

- Maintain an inventory of the condition of structures and corridors in most urgent need of retrofit or rehabilitation
- Develop long-term financing tools for ongoing maintenance and preservation of the transportation system
- Balance system safety and convenience through all phases of a project to accommodate all users of the transportation system to safely, reliably, and efficiently provide mobility to people and goods
- Develop strategies to gradually reduce the per capita vehicle miles traveled based on consideration of a range of reduction methods
- Consider efficiency tools, including high-occupancy vehicle and high-occupancy toll lanes, corridor-specific and systemwide pricing strategies, active traffic management, commute trip reduction, and other demand management tools
- Promote integrated multimodal planning
- Consider engineers and architects to design environmentally sustainable, context-sensitive transportation systems (SSB 5412-Sec. 6.)

**Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan**

The specific role of WSDOT in transportation planning must be consistent with the policy goals and include:

- Ongoing coordination and development of statewide transportation policies that guide all Washington transportation providers
- Ongoing development of a statewide multimodal transportation plan that includes both state-owned and state-interest facilities and services
- Coordinating the state high-capacity transportation planning and regional transportation planning programs
- Conducting special transportation planning studies that impact state transportation facilities or relate to transportation facilities and services of statewide significance
- Assisting the transportation commission in the development of the statewide transportation plan (SSB 5412-Sec. 9.)

The state-owned facilities component of the statewide multimodal transportation plan shall consist of:

- The state Highway System Plan which shall contain a System Preservation element, a Highway Maintenance element, a Capacity and Operational Improvement element, a Scenic and Recreational Highways element, and a Paths and Trails element.
- The state Ferry System Plan (SSB 5412-Sec. 10.)

WSDOT, in cooperation with RTPOs, counties, cities, transit agencies, public ports, private railroad operators, and private transportation providers, as appropriate, shall plan for improvements to transportation facilities and services of statewide significance in the statewide multimodal transportation plan. (SSB 5412-Sec. 11.)

**Demand Modeling**

WSDOT shall use transportation demand modeling tools to evaluate investments based on the best mode or improvement, or mix of modes and improvements, to meet current and future long-term demand within a corridor or system for the lowest cost. WSDOT will participate in the refinement, enhancement, and application of existing transportation demand modeling tools to be used to evaluate investments. (SSB 5412-Sec. 8.)