

# WSDOT Washington Transportation Plan – News Alert

*A monthly news service to keep you informed of new developments and direction of our update to the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP).*

## February 4, 2005

If you're a subscriber to this newsletter, you may be wondering where we've been lately. As you may know, we've put forth an unprecedented effort to gather, analyze and organize data, and to share that information with transportation interests and stakeholders across the state. We found our original plan to communicate these activities through the *WTP News Alert* on a bi-monthly basis was a bit too ambitious and we stumbled – at least on the communication piece. We've now regrouped and are committed to providing monthly updates on WTP developments and activities.

## Where we've been:

The State Transportation Commission last summer held a series of workshops to examine data and information on nine key issue areas for transportation. Then in October 2004, the Commission hosted its "Milestone Event," a meeting with transportation interests, elected officials and industry representatives from across the state to share the information and hear other's perspectives. The results of the meeting helped the Commission and the Washington State Department of Transportation identify key areas for targeted investment.

## Where we're at:

Now that we've identified our target areas for investment, the Transportation Commission will move on to the second phase of the WTP – further refining how we'll address our basic transportation needs. Those include taking care of our existing transportation system, making sure people have access to basic services and finding ways to pay for it all. The Transportation Commission will hold a series of workshops beginning in February and continuing in March and April.

The Commission's February workshop will focus on proposed targeted investments in:

- System Preservation – Fix it first: Taking care of what we have now has emerged as a major issue for the WTP. This includes interstate, state, and local roadway preservation; big ticket preservation needs like the Alaskan Way Viaduct and State Route 520 bridge; stable funding for transit and ferries; and providing for general aviation and short line rail needs.
- Safety – Washington's safety problem has taken the lives of more than 600 people a year and costs \$5.6 billion annually. One of the first steps in tackling this problem is ensuring that decision-makers have good information and access to safety data. Other efforts may include programs targeted toward public education and a focus on pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, railroad crossings, two-lane roads and general aviation safety.
- Transportation Access – Basic transportation services are key issues for individuals without access to an automobile or the ability to drive. These individuals – the elderly, low income, persons with disabilities, and children – depend on services provided by volunteers, human service agencies, and public transportation providers.

## What's ahead:

The Transportation Commission will continue working through various program, policy and revenue scenarios in March and April. This summer, their focus will shift toward developing a prioritizing process that will be used to determine what programs, policy and projects are carried forward to the draft WTP. In September, the Transportation Commission will adopt a draft WTP and a draft 10-year Investment Plan, both of which will be made available for public review and comment. The final plans will be adopted in December.

## How can you participate?

- Attend your area's Regional Transportation Planning Organization's meetings
- Visit WTP on the Web: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp)
- Attend WTP workshops, presentations, meetings and forums.
- The next Commission workshop will be February 16 at 8:00am and will cover: Preservation, Safety and Transportation Access. Go to: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/CommissionBriefingMaterials.htm> to see the Commission Briefing Packet.

## Resources available on the Web:

If you haven't visited our website lately (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/>) you may be surprised at what you'll find. Here's a sampling of what's available:

- **Data Library** – <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/datalibrary/> learn more about the conditions and uses of Washington's transportation system and facilities
- **Milestone Event** – <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/MilestoneEvent.htm> view the presentations and information briefs that were presented during the October 2004 meeting.
- **Key Issues** -- <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/ninekeyissues.htm> find out more about the nine key issue areas being explored in the WTP.
- **Recent Presentations** – <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/MostRecentPresentations.htm> review the information that we've been sharing about our findings with others around the state.
- **Previous WTP News Alerts**  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/PreviousWTPNewsAlerts.htm>

To learn more about the WTP, ask questions or provide comments, visit our website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/>