



2010 Winter Olympic Games: We Are Ready!

Transportation Planning Office | September 2009

Capital Investments Needed to Prepare the State's Transportation System for the Games—Unclogging Bottlenecks, Easing Congestion, and Improving Safety on Washington's Transportation Systems

WSDOT projects are providing smooth tourist and commercial travel across the border and making Washington State's transportation systems safe and reliable for all travelers.

SR 543 – Interstate 5 to Canadian Border – Additional lanes for freight \$49m

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR543/I5_Canadian

This project widened the highway from two to five lanes and built dedicated truck lanes to separate cars and trucks at the U.S./Canada border. Dedicated truck lanes allow the implementation of FAST (Free and secure Trade program) in the northbound direction at this crossing. The project built a new interchange, eliminating a high accident location. This project was completed February 2008.

SR 539 – Bellingham to Lynden widening \$169m

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR539/HortonTenMile

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR539/TenmileBorder

This project widens the highway, providing an additional lane for traffic in each direction and intersection improvements, which helps ease congestion and improve safety between Bellingham and the Canadian border. Construction will be operationally complete in December 2009.



New I-5 HOV

Interstate 5 – Everett, SR 526 to US 2 HOV lanes \$262.6m

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/HOVSR526toUS2

This six-mile long project increased traffic flow and improved safety by widening both directions of I-5 lanes including a merging lane between 41st and US 2. This project was completed June 2008.

SR 9 – Nooksack Road vicinity to Cherry Street \$18m

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR9/NooksakToCherry

WSDOT dramatically changed and improved State Route 9 in Whatcom County between Lindsey Road near Nooksack and Cherry Street near the Sumas border crossing. WSDOT straightened, widened, and smoothed the highway to make it safer and more accessible year round. WSDOT removed three 90-degree turns from the highway and improved drainage beneath the road surface. Semi trucks can now move faster and safer along SR 9 on their way to and from the border. This project was completed one year ahead of schedule on November 22, 2006.

Rail improvements

Since 1994, WSDOT has made track and signal improvements to the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor that stretches from Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene, Oregon, so that both freight trains and passenger trains can operate efficiently within the shared rail corridor. Due to these rail improvements, Amtrak and WSDOT re-introduced passenger rail service between Seattle, Edmonds, Everett, Mount Vernon, Bellingham, and Vancouver, B.C., in 1995, and launched a second daily Amtrak *Cascades* round trip between Seattle and Bellingham in 1999. On August 19, 2009, a second round trip Amtrak *Cascades* between Vancouver, B.C., and Portland, Oregon provides an additional transportation option for the 2010 Olympics.



Amtrak *Cascades*

For More Information:

2010 Olympics Transportation Subcommittee
Elizabeth Robbins
Washington State Department of Transportation
360.705.7371
robbins@wsdot.wa.gov



Traffic management including incident response and freeway and highway operations—responding quickly to traffic accidents or highway conditions ensures traveler throughput on the highway system

Operations command post will coordinate traffic

An operations command post will coordinate traffic management activities of WSDOT staff. WSDOT staff will optimize signal timing, control message signs, and provide incident response services on the I-5 Corridor and in Whatcom and Skagit counties as well as the border crossing at Whatcom County.



Incident Response

Winter operations including response to winter storms—ensuring traveler mobility

Additional personnel and equipment for increased services

Highway maintenance will be ready with over 70 additional personnel stationed along the I-5 Corridor and border crossing routes. There will also be over 30 additional pieces of equipment at the ready. WSDOT may also have to provide increased snow and ice materials for the safety and convenience of Olympic travelers.

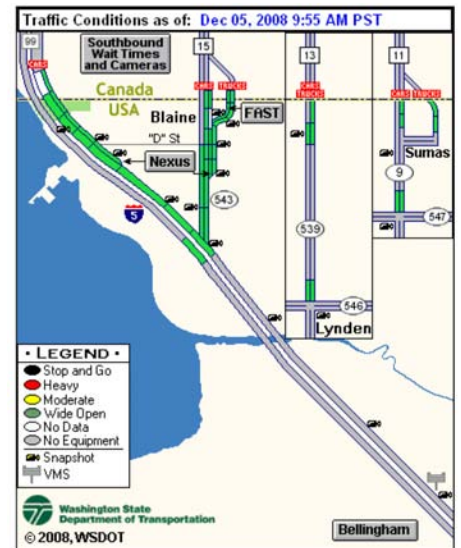


Snow Plows and Sand Trucks

Traveler and tourism information—providing accurate real-time information about border wait times and road conditions at all four border crossings leading to Vancouver, BC will help to manage the 3,000-4,000 additional daily trips

Real time traveler information

Real time information, which includes wait times and border conditions, allows travelers to make immediate informed decisions for both departure times and route choices. This information will be available via 511, the website (www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/), variable message signs, and highway advisory radios. In addition, WSDOT's website links to the BCMOT website.



Washington State Ferries

Washington State Ferries

WSDOT Ferries Division is part of the state highway system. This marine highway is the largest ferry system in the United States, with a fleet of 22 vessels carrying nearly 23 million passengers and 10 million vehicles annually to 20 terminals throughout the Puget Sound region.