

Working With Other Freight Partners

[Freight Action Strategy \(FAST\) Corridor](#) (Updated Nov. 1, 2002)

The FAST Corridor partnership is co-administered by WSDOT and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). FAST partners include cities and counties, ports, transportation agencies, economic development organizations, railroads, and trucking and business community representatives. The Fast Corridor focuses on the broad geographic corridor near north-south rail lines connecting the cities of Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma. FAST is managed by a team of partner representatives known as the FAST Cast. Funding is received from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Borders and Corridors program, augmented by local, private and public funding.

FAST Corridor Phase I (1996-2004) is building 15 railroad grade separations and port access projects to improve freight movement along the I-5 corridor ([Appendix B](#)). Four projects are completed. A Phase II list of projects was developed in 2002, also shown in [Appendix B](#). Those FAST projects for which WSDOT has a lead role are also noted in [Table 2](#).

[Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board \(FMSIB\)](#) (Updated Nov. 1, 2002)

The Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) is a state government office created by the Washington State Legislature in 1998. The purpose of FMSIB is to administer a program of projects and strategies designed to lessen the impacts of freight movement on local communities, and to facilitate efficient and profitable freight movement in Washington State. The 9-member board consists of representatives from Washington ports, railroads, cities, counties, WSDOT, the governor's office, truckers, steamship operators and private citizens. By recommending state funding assistance for freight projects, FMSIB promotes the importance of improved freight mobility to the state's economy and improves communication and understanding of freight issues at the local level. Periodically, FMSIB issues a call for projects in order to maintain a six-year list of active projects.

[International Mobility and Trade Corridor Project \(IMTC\)](#)

The International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) Project is a U.S.-Canadian coalition of businesses and government entities formed to jointly identify and pursue improvements to cross-border mobility in the Cascade Gateway. The Cascade Gateway is the grouping of four Washington State-British Columbia border stations: Peace Arch, Pacific Highway, Lynden/Aldergrove, and Sumas/Huntingdon. Peace Arch is open for cars only, and Lynden has restricted truck volume. The other two stations are open for all modes of traffic.

IMTC initially came together in 1997 in response to growing cross-border congestion, increases in NAFTA trade volumes, and emerging national-level programs and policies aimed at improving cross-border mobility. Examples of such

initiatives include the U.S. Department of Transportation's Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program, the Shared Border Accord, and regional cross-border planning efforts by the U.S. General Services Administration.

The shared goal is to better facilitate trade, transportation, and tourism with innovative improvements to infrastructure, operations, and technology. Over fifty public and private organizations from the U.S. and Canada, including WSDOT, constitute the IMTC project. IMTC is identifying a future cross-border system as well as facilitating better coordination of investments today.

With the increased emphasis on border security, the IMTC has the potential to make a major contribution to solving deficient border related issues.

A list of IMTC proposed projects for FY 2002 is presented in [Appendix C](#).

The success of FAST, FMSIB and IMTC can serve as models for other areas of the state. To a large degree this success is based on strong partnerships and leadership. The Office of Freight Strategy and Policy will work with emerging groups to foster their development. This can be done through direct participation, providing technical assistance, coordinating projects, pointing out funding opportunities and in some cases, providing funding.