



Overview

United States Highway 2 (US 2) is an east-west highway within the United States Highway System that crosses the state of Washington and extends through Michigan.

As part of the Stevens Pass Greenway, US 2 serves commuter, neighborhood, business, freight, and recreational interests. This highway is very popular for bicyclists, hikers, rafters, rock climbers, fishers, and skiers.

As part of the southern leg of the Cascade Loop (www.cascadeloop.com/), US 2 delivers breathtaking views of the Cascade Mountains and scenic adventures through lush, forested trails and the bountiful experiences nature has to offer to the users of this highway.

Why is WSDOT looking at ways to improve US 2?

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is studying US 2 because this highway is experiencing particularly high weekend recreational traffic and safety problems.

In 2005, the WSDOT received \$500,000 in federal funds to conduct a Route Development Plan (RDP) for an approximately 47-mile section of US 2 between the cities of Snohomish and Skykomish. In addition, WSDOT also received \$100,000 for public outreach activities and another \$700,000 from the 2006 State Legislature supplemental budget for a total of \$1.3 million.

RDP study partners include the cities of Snohomish, Monroe, Sultan and Goldbar; the towns of Index and Skykomish; Snohomish and King Counties, and the Puget Sound Regional Council.

For more information:

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www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us2/rdp



Study Limits: Snohomish to Skykomish.

The End Result

The US 2 RDP will produce a list of short- and long-term recommendations for safety and mobility improvements that will be implemented over the next 20 years as funding becomes available.



Photo: Typical evening traffic congestion in Monroe on US 2 at the Kelsey intersection.



What are the study benefits?

- **Funding.** The recommended set of improvement projects suggested in the US 2 RDP will then be incorporated into the Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Transportation Plan (Destination 2030) www.psrc.org/projects/mtp/ and the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/ for prioritization and funding.
- **Safety.** Recommended safety improvements may include separation of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, installation of signals, and designating highway crossings.
- **Congestion Relief.** Recommended projects will seek to reduce or eliminate traffic bottlenecks and chokepoints where possible, while improving the flow of people and goods through the corridor.

What is the study timeline?

The US 2 RDP study is expected issue a final report by Spring 2007.

- ◆ *December 2005* – Agency interviews and Corridor Working Group kick-off.
- ◆ *December 2005-December 2006* – Public outreach.
- ◆ *May 2006* – 1st round of open houses.
- ◆ *August 2006* – Existing Conditions Report and Design charrette.
- ◆ *July 2006* – Local agency presentations.
- ◆ *October/November 2006* – 2nd round of open houses.
- ◆ *October/November 2006* – CWG meeting & local agency presentations.
- ◆ *December/January 2006* – Draft RDP.
- ◆ *Spring 2006* – Final RDP.

What are you doing to protect the environment?

WSDOT and its study partners make every effort to identify and avoid or minimize environmental effects from its projects. This US 2 RDP will identify environmental concerns that must be studied in greater detail when a recommended project triggers environmental documentation. Please visit WSDOT's Environmental Services Web Site for more information at www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:

Materials can be provided in alternative formats: large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk for people with disabilities by calling the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) at (360) 705-7097.

Key Issues So Far

- There is almost 3 times the amount of vehicle travel on US 2 during weekends than there are during weekday commute hours due to high recreational use.
- Safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

For more information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us2/rdp

How can I get involved in this study effort?

Your thoughts and opinions are very important to us. Please feel free to send us a comment using our on-line comment form at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us2/rdp or by contacting Renee Zimmerman, the project manager, to discuss your thoughts at 206.464.1273 or zimmerr@wsdot.wa.gov.



Above: Community Transit carrying riders, traveling east towards Sultan and Goldbar along US 2.

Interested in a speaker to talk about this study?

Please call 206.464.1260 to schedule a presentation.

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