

NEXT STEPS

WSF has developed a Draft Plan that addresses the current service needs and the expected growth in the years to come while remaining flexible in case that growth does not develop. Per the direction from the Legislature, Plan A attempts to balance competing interests, carefully considers a variety of tradeoffs, and proposes operational and pricing strategies.

The Draft Plan also puts forward an alternative approach to reflect the possibility that the level of ongoing state funding would not be sufficient to address the funding requirements of Plan A. In this alternative, Plan B, WSF would focus on a core highway system which could be funded at current planned state funding levels and would work with regional partners to develop a complimentary passenger-only system that would be funded at the regional level.

The next step for the Draft Plan is to go through a public comment period to solicit feedback from stakeholders, customers and other affected and interested parties. The public comment period will feature 10 public hearings in early January 2009, throughout the service area. WSF will consider all feedback when developing a Final Plan, for submittal to the Legislature by end of January 2009.

