

Role of WTP Advisory Group and Plan Development Process

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Role of WTP Advisory Group

The Washington State Transportation Commission charters the WTP Advisory Group to work with the Commission's WTP Team and guide the development the 2011 – 2030 Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). The purpose of the WTP is to:

- Establish a 20-year vision for the development of the statewide transportation system;
- Identify the total unfunded statewide need over 20 years;
- Identify significant statewide transportation policy and fiscal issues;
- Recommend statewide transportation policies and strategies to the legislature and Governor (*RCW 47.01.071(4)*).

This broad-based Advisory Group will assist the Commission WTP Team in developing the vision, themes and framework for the 2011-2030 WTP. The Advisory Group is a brain trust, a sounding board, and includes a diverse representation of interests.

The Transportation Commission expects all members of this Advisory Group to look ahead to the future needs of the several distinct economic and demographic sectors of our state, honestly evaluate today's transportation system without regard to jurisdictional boundaries and authority, and identify policy and revenue steps that are needed to move our state forward into the next era.

The Transportation Commission expects those members of this Advisory Group who are representing Associations to bring ideas from those organizations to the Advisory Group and report back to those organizations on the development of the 2011 – 2030 WTP. Because the Commission intends for the development of this WTP to be a very interactive process, neither this Advisory group nor its individual members should be considered a filter through which ideas must flow; while the Advisory Group plays a key role in developing the vision, the outline and the content of the 2011 – 2030 WTP, there are many avenues for input.

The Commission also will seek information and advice from others as needed.

- The Commission will provide draft sections of the policy plan to those directly impacted or having a direct interest in a given section/ topic, for their review and comment.
- The Commission will reach out directly to representatives from trucking, rail, aviation, the environmental community, safety advocates, non-motorized advocates, the business community, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, TIB, and transportation think tanks, among others.

To ensure open and effective sharing of information as the update process moves forward, the Commission is developing a Communications Strategy for the 2011 – 2030 WTP effort that likely will include a blog. Also, all Advisory Group meetings are public meetings open to anyone who wants can attend so we encourage you to share this fact with your constituency.

WTP Development Process

The full Transportation Commission will receive updates monthly and discuss the direction of the 2011 -2030 WTP at most or all Commission meetings between now and its scheduled November 2010 adoption. Once the Advisory Group has developed one or more Draft Visions for 2030, the Transportation Commission will review that work and ask the Advisory Group to develop a straw man 2030 WTP outline by September 2009. After receiving public comment on that Outline during Fall 2009, the Commission intends that the Advisory Group recommend a WTP Outline by December 2009.

Commission staff will begin drafting the 2011 – 2030 WTP during the winter and spring 2010, seeking feedback and input frequently from the WTP Advisory Group. Much of this work can be done through e-mail and virtual meetings, if the Advisory Group wishes to minimize in-person meetings during the plan drafting stage.

The Commission will seek public comment on the Draft 2011 – 2030 WTP during the Fall 2010. After the close of public comment, the Commission will again consult with the Advisory Group prior to adopting a 2011 – 2030 WTP and forwarding its work to the Governor and Legislature.