

WSDOT's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program

Winter 2009



Why was the program established?

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program was established to address the nearly 400 statewide fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists that occur each year. The program aids public agencies in funding cost-effective projects that improve pedestrian and bicycle safety through engineering, education, and enforcement. Projects may also support increased mobility and access.

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature included \$74 million over the following 16 years in the Transportation Partnerships Act, which created the grant program. The program has provided nearly \$15 million to fund 47 pedestrian and bicycle safety projects including pedestrian and bicycle paths, sidewalks, safe routes to school, and transit. Each project improved a risk location known to have multiple serious or fatal pedestrian and/or bicyclist involved collisions.

The demand for this program continues to grow as evidenced over the last several years with requests amounting to approximately four times the funding available.

How are projects selected?

Priority projects are those that improve a risk location, such as a location with a history of traffic collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists. All projects that have received funding to date address locations known to have a history of fatal and/or serious injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists.

Who is eligible to apply?

Public agencies with known risk locations are encouraged to apply, and projects providing a match are given preference. Project proposals are evaluated by a committee, as well as site visits conducted by WSDOT. A report with the prioritized list of projects will be provided to the State Legislature by December 15, 2010, who will make the final decision regarding which projects to fund.

Eligible projects and programs include:

- Engineering Improvements that create operational and physical improvements to the infrastructure that improves safety and mobility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Training/Education that provides engineers, planners, and others the tools to identify and analyze collision data and engineer safe environments for walking and biking.

What has been accomplished?

To date, five projects have been completed, 26 are under construction, and 16 are in design. With only a portion of the projects completed, limited information on project performance is available. Overall feedback from communities is positive.

When is the next call for projects?

The next call for projects will be **March 2010**. Competitive projects will reduce fatal and serious collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists, support increased mobility, and encourage more people to bicycle and walk.

For More Information

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**Washington State
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