

# Community Transportation Planning Office



## Our Focus

The Community Transportation Planning Office's (CTPO) goal is to support a sustainable, integrated, multimodal transportation system by effectively coordinating local, regional, and state land use and transportation planning. As an office that works across disciplines with internal and external partners we support all of WSDOT's strategic goals, but particularly focus on community engagement, credibility, integrated decision-making, modal integration, and organizational strength.

## We Coordinate Land Use and Transportation Planning

The CTPO is working to implement the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and other state and federal policies, that:

- Use WSDOT's vision, mission, values, and goals as our guiding principles for finding solutions that work for transportation users and the system as a whole.
- Support WSDOT's regions in reviewing the transportation element of local comprehensive plans and development regulations affecting the statewide transportation system.
- Champion the use of innovative planning techniques, like scenario planning, to link the economy, transportation, environment, and land use.

## We Support Livable Communities and Economic Vitality

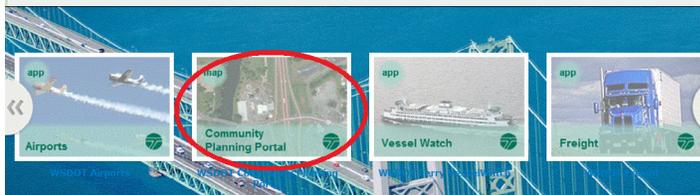
The CTPO supports livable communities and economic vitality through policy development and providing tools, resources, and training to WSDOT staff and our state and local partners. For example, the CTPO has effectively participated in local land use planning activities by:

- Developing the WSDOT Community Planning Portal (see content box).
- Making a plan review checklist and comment letter templates for WSDOT staff as well as guidance for local agencies.

- Coordinating internal policy and practices for reviewing local planning documents.
- Evaluating the sustainability of WSDOT plans using the INVEST tool (see content box).
- Participating in two different types of up-front State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) actions.
- Partnering with MPOs and RTPs to develop and employ scenario planning techniques.
- Publishing an office website and a CTPO E-Newsletter covering best practices and resources.

### WSDOT Community Planning Portal

The WSDOT Community Planning Portal is an online forum that provides access to state transportation data for WSDOT planners and all our partners. The intent of the Portal is to help local and regional planners, decision-makers, and citizens better understand the statewide transportation system. [Portal Entry Link.](#)



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### Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST)

WSDOT participated in a pilot using the Federal Highway Administration's Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST). WSDOT used INVEST to evaluate three recently completed corridor studies in central Puget Sound and to evaluate the State Route 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program. A report is forthcoming on the pilot's results with recommendations for implementation.

## Our Additional Accomplishments

The CTPO has coordinated local, regional, and state land use and transportation planning to improve safety and mobility, address climate change, and support economic development and healthy communities. We assisted in various planning and programming provisions within WSDOT and also with our outside partners, including:

- Coordinated with sustainable transportation work groups.
- Worked with the Washington State Department of Commerce on an Interagency Work Group on Growth Management as well as assisted in updating Commerce's [Your Community's Transportation System](#) (pdf 19 mb).
- Participated in WSDOT's economic impact modeling and methodology reviews.
- Participated in WSDOT's climate adaptation pilot project with commentary on inclusion of this issue during planning opportunities.
- Represented the Secretary of Transportation on the Washington Economic Development Commission. The Commission is an independent, non-partisan commission charged by the legislature with the mission of creating a comprehensive statewide strategy to guide investments in economic development.
- Secured funding for and implemented a research project with the University of Washington to establish a framework for a repeatable, data-driven method to identify and prioritize sections of state transportation infrastructure that are vulnerable to land development and to create a menu of appropriate collaborative strategies for managing adverse risks.
- Analyzed and monitored developments in national and state policy and legislation, including the federal surface transportation reauthorization (MAP-21), analyzed potential impacts to WSDOT and its partners of pending and enacted legislation.

## Our Contact Information

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- Developed policy and budget proposals to implement transportation and land use coordination.
- Prepared presentations for Secretary of Transportation: United Nations World Roads Congress, Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), and National Governors Association.

## Positioning Ourselves for the Future

The CTPO is continuing to coordinate and partner with WSDOT staff, local and regional organizations, and other state agencies in order to meet WSDOT's vision, mission, values, and goals, as well as our customers' needs of an integrated transportation system that works. This includes:

- Exploring areas to try out main street standards.
- Developing guidance for local governments on access management for state highways.
- Improving our participation in up-front GMA and SEPA processes for public awareness and informing local decision-making,
- Understanding and explaining risk factors to the state transportation system from future development.
- Identifying WSDOT's role in supporting economic development opportunities.
- Working on integrating demand management strategies into planning and programming efforts.
- Implementing practical planning leading to Practical Design.



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