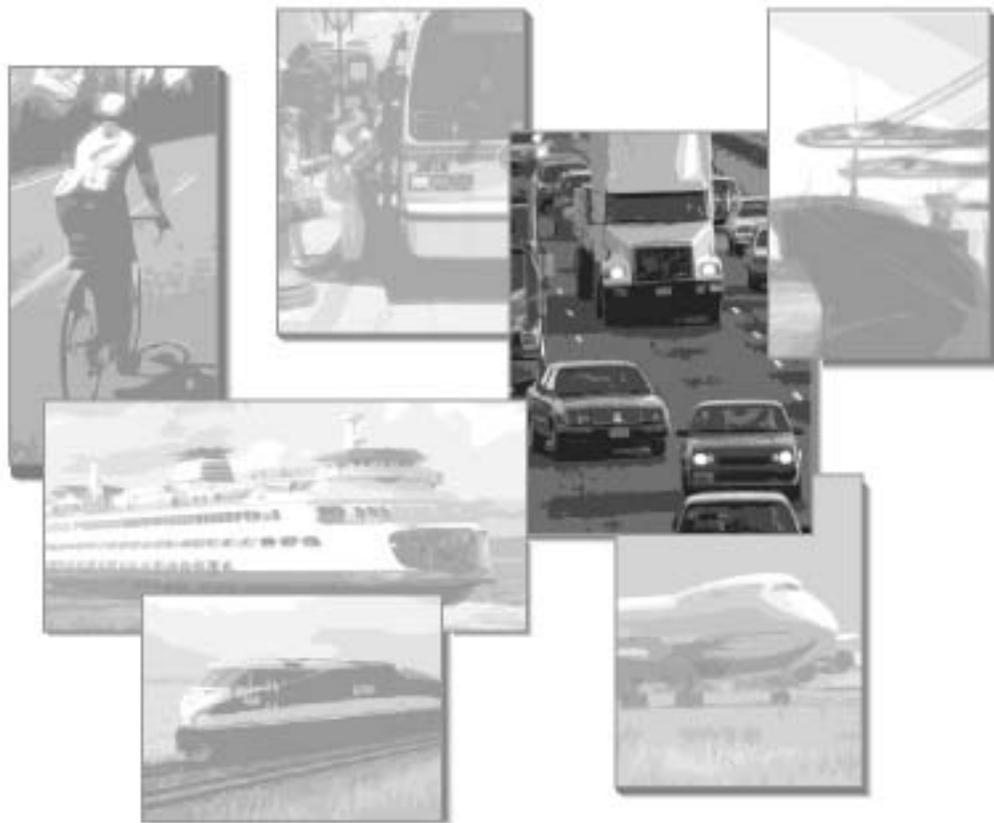


# *Washington State Highway System Plan*

*2003-2022*



*February 2002*



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**



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Department of Transportation**

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Transportation affects everyone. Whether we are going to work, delivering products, taking a vacation, or going to the grocery store, our lives and livelihood depend on a safe, efficient and reliable transportation system. Our state's population continues to grow, as does the need to move more people and freight. We need to plan carefully for how we will improve Washington's transportation system to meet this growing demand.

The document in your hands is the **Washington State Highway System Plan** (HSP). The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) through working partnerships with local agencies and tribes throughout the state has developed the HSP to help local authorities coordinate their comprehensive planning process with future state highway needs. This coordination helps to ensure that the long-range plans of WSDOT, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are compatible and mutually supportive. (For more about RTPOs, see [Appendix C](#), and for more about WSDOT, see [Appendix D](#) or [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov))

The HSP is updated every two years and guides WSDOT in prioritizing and budgeting for highway projects. The HSP is also a primary element of **Washington's Transportation Plan** (WTP).

The WTP addresses future needs for all transportation facilities that are owned and operated by the state including the state highway system, Washington State ferries, and state-owned emergency and general aviation airports. The WTP also addresses transportation facilities and services that are owned and operated by others but are important to the overall transportation needs of Washington's citizens. These "state interest" facilities and services include those for bikes and pedestrians, public transportation, freight and intercity passenger rail, marine ports and navigation, and aviation.

Together the WTP and HSP assess future transportation needs through a collaborative planning process with local governments, regional planning agencies, and private transportation providers to ensure that the transportation system provides convenient, reliable, safe, efficient, and seamless connections and services.

To view or download a copy of all or portions of the **Washington State Highway System Plan** or **Washington's Transportation Plan**, visit our Internet website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ppsc/planning](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ppsc/planning). To obtain a printed or electronic copy on CD, call or write to:

Washington State Department of Transportation  
Transportation Planning Office  
P.O. Box 47370  
Olympia, WA 98504-7370

The Washington State Transportation Commission, [www.wsdot.wa.gov/commission](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/commission), welcomes your comments on this and future transportation plans. You can send comments to the WSDOT Planning Office by e-mail at [WTP@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:WTP@wsdot.wa.gov), mail at the address shown above, or phone (360) 705-7962.



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The *Washington State Highway System Plan* (HSP) is the element of *Washington's Transportation Plan* (WTP) that addresses the state's highway system. The HSP includes a comprehensive assessment of existing and projected 20-year deficiencies on our state's highway system. It also lists potential solutions that address these deficiencies. The Plan:

**Forecasts** future transportation needs based on the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) maintenance, operation, preservation, mobility, safety, economic, and environmental programs.

**Specifies** objectives and the supporting action strategies for our state highway system ([see Appendix J](#)).

**Serves** as the basis for the capital investment goals and strategies and assessment of needs for each program.

The Washington State highway system plan encompasses the following elements:

**Maintenance, operation, and preservation** of over 7,000 centerline miles of state and interstate highway system. These state and interstate highways form the backbone of Washington's surface transportation system by networking with more than 73,000 centerline miles of city, county, state, and federal roads. In addition, this network includes ten year-round mountain passes, 43 rest areas, approximately 75,000 catch basins and culverts, over 3,000 bridges, 34 tunnels, and many other highway elements.

**Improvement** of the state highway system's capital and operational infrastructure to increase efficiency, reduce congestion, enhance safety, promote economic initiatives, and protect the environment.

The **Highway System Plan** was initially developed in response to three significant actions that occurred in the early 1990s. The first action was passage of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991. This federal law changed the way federal transportation dollars were allocated to states. ISTEA also promoted integrated planning for all modes of transportation (for example, highway, transit, and rail) and required that major metropolitan areas comprehensively plan for transportation improvements in an integrated manner. This mandated joint planning required much greater agency coordination than ever before.

The second action was the passage of the Growth Management Act (GMA) by the Washington State Legislature in 1990. This state law mandated that the fastest growing and most populous counties and the cities within them must plan for future growth and development. Local agencies then developed comprehensive plans, with transportation as a key element.

Finally, in 1993, another new state law, RCW 47.06.050 (Revised Code of Washington, state-owned facilities component) mandated the development of a state highway system plan ([see Appendix E](#)).

The development of the Highway System Plan:

**1995**

Completed the first HSP. Published the 1995-2014 HSP

**1996**

Published the 1997-2016 HSP.

**1998**

Published the 1999-2018 HSP. (Technical update for all programs; no policy changes.)

**1999**

Published the 2001-2020 of HSP. (Safety subprogram, urban bicycle, and pedestrian risk categories updated.)

**2002**

Published the 2003-2022 HSP.