



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways

March 2010

Washingtonians value their scenic and recreational resources and want to ensure they are preserved for generations to come. The State's Scenic and Recreational Highways have been identified as important access routes to the most scenic and best recreational resources Washington has to offer.

What is the purpose of the State Scenic and Recreational Highways Plan?

WSDOT and a multi-agency Steering Committee have developed a plan for the Scenic and Recreational Highways to meet both state and federal planning requirements.

This Plan is both a new stand-alone document and an element of Washington's Highway System Plan that establishes goals and performance measures consistent with the State's transportation policy goals (RCW 47.04.280), and

- Provides guidance to WSDOT programs;
- Informs other planning efforts such as the Washington Transportation Plan;
- Provides heightened awareness of the value of the state scenic system; and
- Fulfills the need to include a Scenic and Recreational component to the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan as required by state law (RCW 47.06).

Citizens' comments played a major role in determining the Plan's direction

Public participation was instrumental in defining the goals and performance measures for the Scenic and Recreational Highways. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) sought input from people across the state, representing interest groups for specific Scenic and Recreational Highways, tribes, local and regional agencies, and others throughout development of the Plan and conducted eight public meetings around the state at key points in the process.

What is the difference between a Plan and a Program?

Ideally, strategic plans establish guiding principles (goals, objectives, strategies, and measures) and programs implement these guiding principles. A plan can and often does establish guiding principles for a number of programs. Existing programs may have preexisting guidance either in state law or at the federal level. These programs cannot be modified beyond the flexibility given in the law.

What are the preliminary goals for Scenic and Recreational Highways?

The Scenic and Recreational Highways are part of the state transportation system and all associated programs and efforts must be consistent with the Transportation Policy Goals described in state law (RCW 47.04.280). The Plan establishes goals and performance measures for three of the State's five transportation policy areas including:

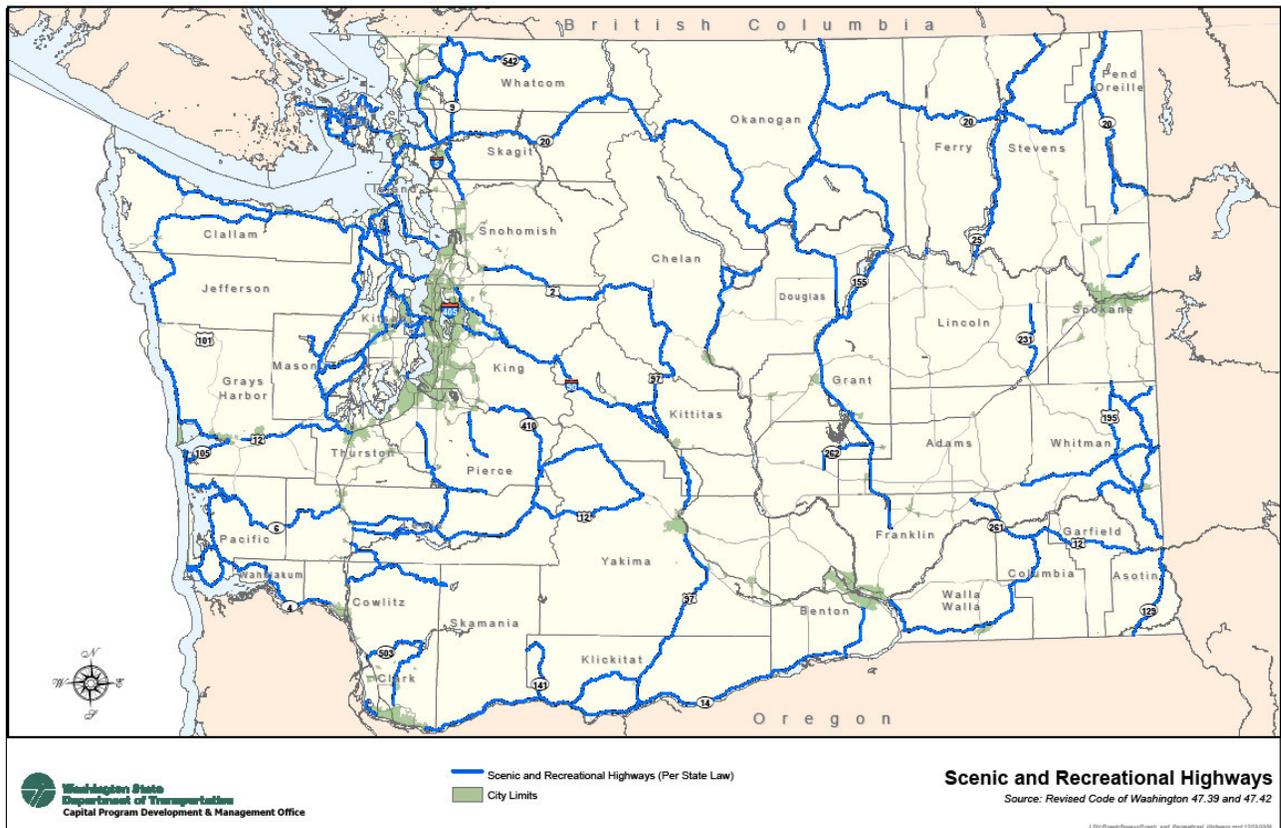
- **Safety:** *Increase traveler safety through traveler services on Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways.*
- **Mobility:** *Increase public access to scenic and recreational resources associated with the State's Scenic and Recreational Highways.*
- **Environment:** *Plan for, protect, preserve, and enhance resources associated with the State's Scenic and Recreational Highways.*

The Plan also identifies implementation steps and performance measures

Consistent with state law (RCW 47.06.050) the Scenic and Recreational Highways Plan, an element of the Statewide Multi-modal Transportation Plan, that identifies and recommends:

- Strategies for enhancing access to resources
- Strategies for protecting, preserving and enhancing these resources, and
- Designation of Scenic and Recreational Highways.

Where are Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways?



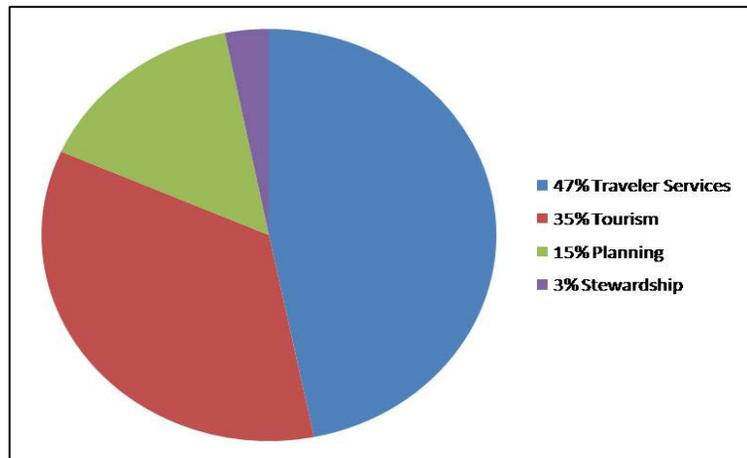
What are some conclusions?

Need a Balanced Approach

A balanced approach is needed to preserve and enhance resources associated with Scenic and Recreational Highways that support the State Transportation Policy Goals including:

- **Stewardship** – protecting, preserving, enhancing resources
- **Tourism** – increasing and enhancing public access to scenic and recreational resources
- **Traveler Services** – increasing and enhancing traveler safety and experience
- **Planning & Integration** – developing and implementing management plans through coordination with other agencies and organizations

Project Funding History from 1992 to Present



More and Better Coordination in Corridor Planning

The important information from the 24 corridor plans developed for sections of Scenic and Recreational Highways has, in most cases, not made its way into comprehensive plans, regional transportation plans, and other state plans. Formally or informally connecting these planning processes would be an efficiency and help meet the state goals and the goals outlined in the corridor plans.

Performance Measurement and Tracking is Vital

Regular monitoring and evaluation of performance measures helps to ensure that Scenic and Recreational Highways are better integrated into daily state agency operations, planning, and project development.

How will WSDOT implement the Plan?

WSDOT recognizes that it will take the efforts of all these partner agencies and organizations to meet the transportation policy goals associated with Scenic and Recreational Highways. The department will rely on the members of its Plan steering committee to help complete the Plan and collaborate to implement it, including guiding future grant processes.

How do I get a copy of the Plan?

You can get an electronic copy of the Plan on WSDOT's website:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/BywaysPlan.htm>

or contact WSDOT at 360-705-7873 to request a copy delivered by mail.