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Secretary of Transportation

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Date

Sustainability

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This Secretary's Executive Order is intended to ensure that WSDOT's actions help Washington's economy, environment, and communities prosper now and for generations to come. To sustain prosperity, it is essential that WSDOT address current needs while preserving the ability of future generations to meet their needs. WSDOT employees are directed to take actions that sustain economic, environmental, and societal prosperity for current and future generations through a focus on energy efficiency, pollution reduction, and enhanced resilience.

B. Background

Sustainability is one of WSDOT's values, is included in the agency's vision, and is reflected in the agency's Strategic Plan. This value is inherent in WSDOT's three goal areas: inclusion, practical solutions, and workforce development. Direction from the Governor and Legislature aligns with this value, emphasizing the need for sustainable transportation along with energy efficiency, toxics reduction, and orca whale recovery.

WSDOT employees support the sustainability value through a mix of efforts. Some of these efforts involve clear, immediate, and individual action (e.g., purchasing electric fleet vehicles or printing fewer documents). Others involve high levels of complexity, collaboration, and persistence (e.g., considering long-term economic, environmental, and social factors in a corridor plan or preparing the state for electric vehicles). While these efforts produce beneficial results, it is imperative that WSDOT amplify the sustainability value in all aspects of our work.

Climate change is a unique threat to the prosperity of our state and its people. The advance of climate change compels us to adjust our decision-making processes with an eye toward a changing future. Resilience is the ability of facilities and operations to withstand threats and serve long-term needs. Proactive stewardship of the statewide transportation system contributes to more resilient and economically vibrant communities.

WSDOT will focus on three aspects of sustainable transportation: energy efficiency, reducing pollution, and enhanced resilience. This focus addresses elements of sustainability that are otherwise not emphasized in other agency efforts. It also makes WSDOT's efforts clearer and more actionable.

II. Secretary's Executive Order

WSDOT employees are directed to take actions that enhance sustainability through a focus on energy efficiency, pollution reduction, and enhanced resilience.

- Employees at all levels should pursue opportunities within WSDOT and with our transportation system partners to address these issues. Examples of transportation partners include cities, counties, transit agencies, ports, tribes, railroads, airports, freight shippers, employers, developers, and others.
- Employees should communicate our sustainability value to our partners, stakeholders, and the public.
- Employees should use the sustainability value to guide changes to policy and practice in alignment with WSDOT's Strategic Plan.
- Efforts to improve energy efficiency, reduce pollution, and enhance resilience should be reflected in daily decision making. Employees should think comprehensively about the effects of decisions.
- Employees should address near- and long-term interests and take steps to meet long-term interests, despite pressures to focus on near-term interests.
- Employees should take proactive steps to:
 - Manage risk and strengthen the transportation system, considering natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and rockslides, as well as manmade threats such as cyberattacks and physical disruptions to daily operations.
 - Minimize energy use in both agency operations and the transportation system.
 - Reduce pollution.
- When necessary, employees should engage colleagues across disciplines to consider long-term and less apparent effects.

WSDOT's executives, managers, and supervisors are expected to direct actions that improve energy efficiency, reduce pollution, and enhance resilience. WSDOT's Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary will lead these efforts.

III. Contact for More Information

For questions or concerns about this Secretary's Executive Order, contact the Environmental Services Office by phone at 360-705-7491 or the Public Transportation Division by phone at 206-464-1192 or visit the WSDOT [Sustainable Transportation](#) webpage.

IV. References

- [RCW 70.235.020](#) *Greenhouse gas emissions reductions—Reporting requirements*
- [Governor's Executive Order 18-02](#) *Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery and Task Force*
- [Governor's Executive Order 20-01](#) *State Efficiency and Environmental Performance*
- [Directive of the Governor 16-19](#) *Preparedness and Response to Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Washington*
- WSDOT [Sustainable Transportation](#) webpage

V. Review and Update Requirements

When changes are necessary to update this document, inform the Director of the Public Transportation Division and the Director of the Environmental Services Office.

The Director of the Public Transportation Division and the Director of the Environmental Services Office review this document periodically and propose updates for leadership review and approval by the Secretary of Transportation.

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