



Community Transportation Planning Office

Why was the Community Transportation Planning Office Created?

In January 2010, WSDOT created a new Community Transportation Planning Office to more effectively coordinate local, regional, and state land use and transportation planning. The creation of this office recognized the growing importance of transportation efficient land use as a strategy to improve safety and mobility; address climate change; and support economic development and healthy communities.

The Community Transportation Planning Office will:

- Identify opportunities to increase state, regional, and local effectiveness in assessing and avoiding or mitigating the impacts of development and land use decisions on the state transportation system;
- Identify and share new planning techniques and technologies to effectively coordinate land use and transportation planning;
- Identify national and private funding opportunities to support local, regional and state efforts to better integrate sustainable land use and transportation decisions;
- Increase the knowledge and effectiveness of WSDOT planning staff in sustainable land use and transportation planning principles;
- Foster close and effective working relationships within WSDOT to better integrate sustainable land use and transportation principles in agency policies and practices; and
- Develop effective working relationships with other state and federal agencies to support local, regional, and state efforts to more effectively coordinate land use and transportation planning.

What has the Office Accomplished?

National Governors Association Policy Academy Selection. The Community Transportation Planning Office successfully nominated Washington State to be one of the five states chosen by the National Governors Association in March 2010 for a policy academy on developing new ways to coordinate land use and transportation planning. The Office is partnering with the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Washington State Department of Commerce, Governor Gregoire's Office, and Metro in Oregon to develop an action plan for integrating state policy goals with regional and local plans and actions in the context of RTC's 2011 metropolitan transportation plan update. The results of this pilot will inform state and national policy efforts related to climate change, livability, and sustainability. The Community Transportation Planning Office submitted a research proposal to the Transportation Research Board in April to further support this planning effort.

What Else Will the Office Produce?

Electronic Newsletter. It plans to publish an electronic newsletter for WSDOT staff, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOS), and local governments. The newsletter will identify new planning tools, training opportunities, and good examples for coordinating transportation and land use and report on national and state policy developments.

Policy Proposals and Resource Materials. It will collaborate with other state and federal agencies to develop policy proposals and resource materials to help WSDOT employees, local governments, and regional governments better coordinate transportation and land use planning.

Programs and Partnerships

The staff of the Community Transportation Planning Office looks forward to the challenge of pioneering new programs in partnerships with communities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies. Potential partners include:

MPOs and RTPOs. MPOs and RTPOs involve cities, counties, transit agencies, ports, private employers, and the state in producing regional transportation plans and improvement programs.

Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTECs) Programs. GTECs provide comprehensive programs to smaller employers, residents, and students in targeted areas.

WSDOT Context Sensitive Solutions Program. Context sensitive solutions involve local people in planning and constructing transportation projects that are safe, efficient, fit into the community, and reflect community aesthetic, social, economic, and environmental values.

WSDOT Access Control Office. Access management can reduce collisions by as much as 55% and increase the capacity of the transportation system by as much as 30%, reducing the need for bigger highways that may not be compatible with the local surroundings.

WSDOT Safe Routes to School Program. Safe Routes to School provides technical assistance and resources to cities, counties, schools, school districts, and state agencies to get more children walking and bicycling to school.

WSDOT Statewide and Corridor Planning Programs. WSDOT prepares a statewide multimodal transportation plan and corridor plans. These plans provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in planning our state's future transportation system.

WSDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. WSDOT prepares a statewide bicycle facilities and pedestrian walkways plan and Washington is one of only a few states that provide dedicated pedestrian and bicycle safety grants.

How Can I Learn More?

The Community Transportation Planning Office welcomes inquiries and ideas. Please see below for contact information:

Elizabeth Robbins

Community Transportation Planning Manager
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Elizabeth, manager of the Community Transportation Planning Office, has over 17 years of management experience at WSDOT. Most recently, she managed the Transportation Planning Office responsible for statewide and regional planning, growth management issues, and policy development. Previously, Elizabeth held management positions in the Highways and Local Programs Division, Olympic Region, and the Environmental and Engineering Service Center. Elizabeth's extensive experience in transportation planning and management made her the perfect advocate to lead this new office.

Karena Houser

Transportation Planner
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Karena has worked at WSDOT for 5 years managing research and policy projects related to growth management and transportation and land use coordination. Prior to working at WSDOT, Karena worked in Growth Management Services at the Department of Commerce and in the Economic Development Office of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

Katherine Klockenteger

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Katherine has 26 years of experience working at the Department of Transportation. Prior to joining the Community Transportation Planning Office, Katherine provided professional planning consultation to Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations across the state.