

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan

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# Washington's Economy Depends on a Stronger Freight Transportation System

Washington's investment in freight systems supports our growing economy, maintains freight access to our major markets and ports, lowers business costs, and sustains jobs.

- \$27 million of freight moves on Washington roadways every hour of every day.
- Our system of roads, rails, ports, marine waterways and intermodal facilities supported total exports from Washington valued at \$52 billion in 2009.
- In 2010, freight-dependent industries accounted for over 44% of Washington's jobs.
  - 625,000 jobs in retail and wholesale trade.
  - 528,000 jobs supported by "Made in Washington" products



Source: WSDOT Freight Systems Division

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

The Washington State Legislature has established transportation policy goals (RCW 47.04.280). The Washington State Freight Mobility Plan will primarily address:

- **Economic Vitality:** To promote and develop transportation systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and goods to ensure a prosperous economy.
- **Mobility:** To improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington State.

State law requires the Washington State Department of Transportation to develop a state freight mobility plan: “The state-interest component of the statewide multimodal transportation plan shall include a freight mobility plan which shall assess the transportation needs to ensure the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of goods within and through the state and to ensure the state's economic vitality.” (Washington State RCW 47.06.045).

The State Freight Mobility Plan will develop freight transportation strategies and recommendations to support sustainable economic growth, the environment and social needs in Washington State.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

In the Washington Transportation Plan 2030 (WTP), the Washington State Transportation Commission developed foundational themes, strategic drivers and adopted policy recommendations.

The State Freight Mobility Plan will:

- Support WTP foundational theme – The State’s Transportation System Needs to Work as an Integrated Network, Effectively Connecting across Modes and Jurisdictions.
- Recognize WTP strategic drivers that particularly apply to freight systems -
  - Transportation Policy Should Support and Reinforce Other State Policy Objectives.
  - The Relationship between Land Use and Transportation Is Key.
  - There are Significant Differences across Regions and One Size Does Not Fit All.
  - Continue the Evolution to Performance-based Programs.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

The State Freight Mobility Plan will support WTP 2030 freight-related strategies to:

- Improve Washington's Economic Competitiveness
- Support the Coordinated, Connected and Efficient Movement of Freight and Goods
- Ensure the Ability to Build and Expand Essential Public Facilities
- Continue to Implement Performance Measures to Ensure Accountability
- Leverage Available Technologies to Maximize Efficiency in the Transportation System

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work

## Goals -

- Make a strong case for funding Washington state freight priority projects and programs in the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and future state transportation packages.
- Guide capital and operating investments in the state's freight systems.

## Objectives –

The Washington State Freight Mobility Plan will develop freight transportation strategies to support three objectives:

- Livable urban communities that support jobs, the economy, and clean air for all, and provide goods delivery to residents and businesses.
- The state and national Export Initiatives through multistate, intermodal freight corridors serving international and interstate commerce.
- Rural economies' farm-to-market, manufacturing and resource industry sectors.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 1.

Review current and proposed federal and state freight transportation benefit criteria:

- Identify current federal freight project and program criteria and Benefit/Cost methodology requirements.
- Identify federal freight project and program criteria found in FHWA and U.S. DOT national freight policy, proposed federal freight bills, SAFETEA-LU freight policies and programs, and TIGER I and II evaluation criteria.

Review other states' freight plans for best practices.

## Task 2.

Update network description, relevant statistics and description of use of the state's freight systems found in the 2008 Washington Transportation Plan Freight Report.

Determine data requirements and data sources for the Plan.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 3.

Conduct gap analysis of connectivity of state freight systems.

- Develop a draft list of essential state freight intermodal facilities and connectors based on factors to include:
  - Washington State’s currently designated National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Facilities and Connectors.
  - The Governor’s “Container Ports and Land Use Report.”
  - Findings from the Washington State Freight Rail Plan, WSDOT Ferries Division Final Long-range Plan, WSDOT Highways System Plan, and Statewide Aviation System Plan.
  - Information provided by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) and Ports, including:
    - Recommended essential state freight facilities and connectors and regional criteria used to identify them.
- Develop draft state criteria and/or thresholds to identify essential state freight facilities.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 4.

Identify current freight system deficiencies:

- Systematically collect GPS onboard truck data and conduct analysis of truck bottlenecks on major freight corridors, statewide.
- Conduct statewide survey and economic analysis of the cost of truck congestion to Washington State's economy.
- Identify and prioritize truck accident locations on the state highway system.
- Incorporate findings of WSDOT Truck Parking Study listing priority locations for additional capacity.
- Conduct interviews and focus groups with shippers and carriers in regions' key freight-dependent sectors to determine current freight system performance requirements and deficiencies.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 4 (cont).

Identify current freight system deficiencies:

- Partner with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) to host public workshops for stakeholders to review and provide input on draft Plan deliverables.
- Invite the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization to hold a State Freight Mobility Plan workshop. Send the draft plan to tribal leaders for review and comment.

Incorporate relevant findings of the State Freight Rail Plan, the WSDOT Ferries Division Final Long-range Plan, WSDOT Highways System Plan, and the Statewide Aviation System Plan.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 5.

Identification of future freight system demands.

Plan and hold a one-day “Future of Freight Symposium” to prepare, by evaluating multiple future trade scenarios, for future demand on Washington State freight systems.



# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 6.

Form and support three expert Technical Teams to:

- Define specific, measurable freight benefits associated with the Plan's three objectives. The list of freight benefits will be reviewed by the State Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Group before being incorporated into WSDOT's freight highway and intermodal project Benefit/Cost evaluation tools.
- Draft strategies to improve freight system deficiencies associated with each objective.
- Recommend data sets and sources to track performance measures.

Hold three in-person meetings for each Technical Team, and support work done via conference calls or email between meetings.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 7.

Develop draft Freight Benefit/Cost evaluation methodology for state freight highway and truck intermodal projects based on defined freight benefits from Task 6 and analysis of freight system connectivity in Task 3.

## Task 8.

Analyze causes and develop solutions to address the worst truck highway bottlenecks in Washington State; see Task 4.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 9.

Form and support a State Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Group to review the draft Freight Benefit criteria and Benefit/Cost methodology.

Hold two meetings of the Plan Advisory Group:

- Meeting 1 – Present Technical Teams' deliverables and draft Freight Benefit/Methodology for review and comment.
- Meeting 2 – Present draft freight project packages determined by application of Freight Benefit Methodology for review and comment.

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 10.

Evaluate highway and truck intermodal project proposals using freight Benefit/Cost methodology.

## Task 11.

Recommend phased list of needed improvements and solutions:

- Short-term – Years one to six
- Mid-term – Years seven to 12
- Long-term – Years 13 – 20
- Those for which future study is needed

# Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

## Task 12.

Outline funding options and revenue sources; matrix will be included in Appendix.

## Task 13.

Develop and implement Truck Performance Measure methodology to track four key system performance measures on the state's primary truck freight corridors: average speed, reliability, congestion threshold and volume.

## Task 14.

Prepare State Freight Mobility Plan.

- Draft the State Freight Mobility Plan and distribute for public review.
- Publish and distribute the final Washington State Freight Mobility Plan.



# Questions?

For more information on the  
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please contact:

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