

Sample of publications produced by the Transportation Planning Office

Transportation Planning Office and Regional Planning Offices



What We Do

WSDOT Headquarters Transportation Planning Office, the six region planning offices, and the Urban Planning Office work closely with local stakeholders to develop data-driven corridor planning and statewide studies and to conduct the consultation and coordination that enable these studies to bear fruit in the form of projects and programs.

Products

- Statewide multimodal transportation plan.
- Statewide planning studies, policy guidelines and criteria.
- Corridor planning studies.
- Review of local comprehensive plan amendments and development regulations.
- Transportation planning manual, developer services manual, and tribal transportation planning manual.
- State-owned transportation facilities concurrency analysis.
- Multimodal concurrency study.
- Access management report of city progress in adopting standards.
- Transportation planning symposium.
- WSDOT preparedness for the 2010 winter Olympics.
- Special projects such as the corridors of the future, alternative fuels corridor, and transportation border congestion relief program.
- Climate change workgroup support and policy analysis; and
- WSDOT's sustainability plan.

Transportation, Society and the Economy

Dust particles move randomly—people and goods don't. People go to work, to school, to the doctor, to shopping centers, to sporting activities, to cultural events...and goods movement supports what people do, as well as shipping our exports to customers. Transportation planning at WSDOT is

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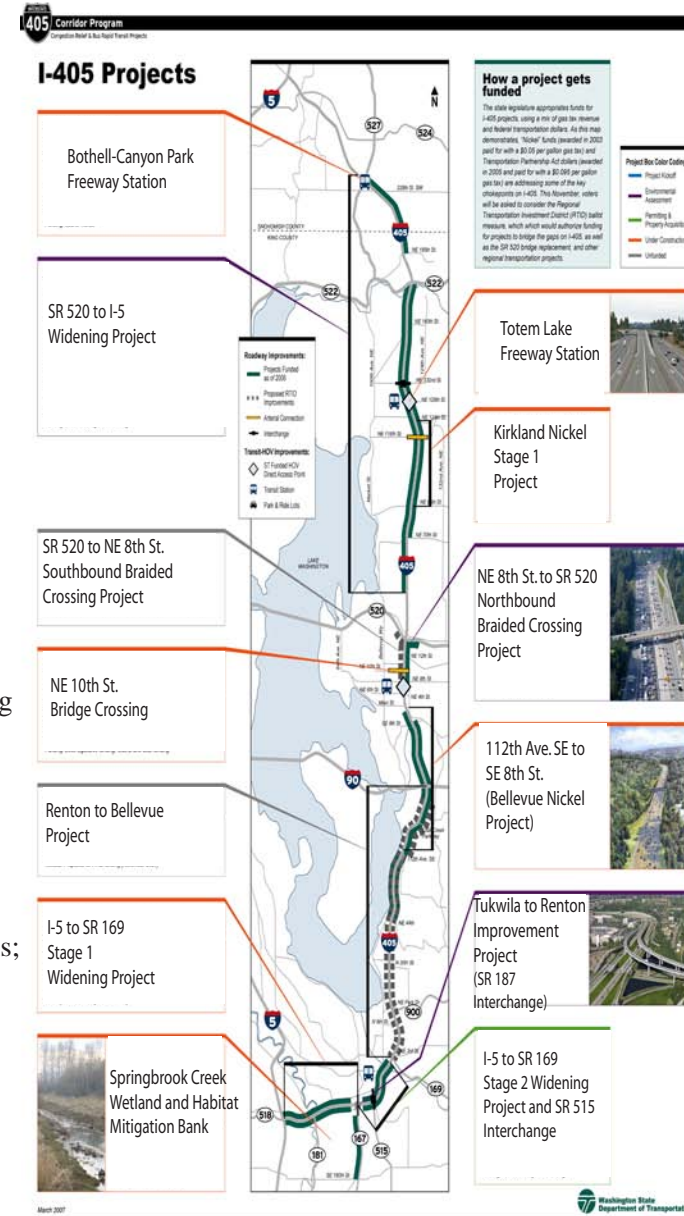
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Map of I-405 projects

a team effort between headquarters and the Region offices and seeks to create a network of roads, rail, ferries, biking facilities, transit, and ports so that people and goods can travel safely, conveniently, and efficiently. Population, urban development, the economy, technology, and even climate – the contexts within which transportation occurs grow and change with time. So we need to continually analyze and plan for future investments on the transportation network.



I-205 and 112th pouring concrete footings

WSDOT's engineers know how to design, build, and maintain transportation infrastructure. WSDOT's planners provide the data-driven research and policy analysis that says where should this infrastructure be, what modal mix it should have, how big it should be and how its negative impacts can be minimized. WSDOT's coordination and consultation activities bring all parties to the table to get from idea to ribbon-cutting in a timely and cost-effective way. Good planning will support sound, lasting investment decisions.

The Transportation Planning Office provides policy analysis and research for various issues including climate change, land use/growth management, and other issues. Staff also coordinates and prepares WSDOT's sustainability plan and report updates.

Transportation Planning is Data Driven

Accurate, detailed data collection and analysis are the basis for planning.

The Data Library is the place to look for information about the state's population, its economy, and the conditions and uses of its transportation systems and facilities. It is updated as information becomes available.

Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

Planners and partnerships throughout WSDOT and the state prepare modal plans. The Transportation Planning Office develops a statewide multimodal transportation plan; a

system-wide assessment of future needs and suggestions for strategies that will address preservation, safety, mobility, environment, and stewardship.

Corridor Planning Leads to Projects

The statewide Multimodal Plan and project identification rely upon corridor studies that analyze in detail the particular functions and problems of selected corridors. The regions lead corridor studies that include alternative strategies and the costs to implement them.

Legislatively Requested Studies

The Transportation Planning Office has recently responded to these legislative requests:

- Access Management Report.
- State-Owned Transportation Facilities Concurrency Analysis.
- Multimodal Concurrency Study.

Development Review

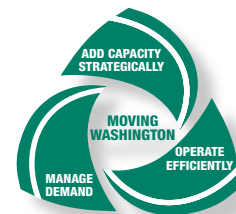
WSDOT region staff review proposed private and public development projects for their prospective impacts on the state transportation system. The Transportation Planning Office coordinates the program statewide by maintaining a manual of up-to-date practices and guidance, and by monitoring development projects and mitigation actions.

The Transportation Planning Office's advisory role in land use planning is imperative to encourage the adoption of appropriate and effective policies, mitigate development impacts on the state highway system, and encourage appropriate access control to state highways.

In Washington State, local governments are responsible for land use planning and regulation. WSDOT's role is largely advisory. The department adopts transportation-efficient land use policies, recommends to local agencies ways to mitigate development impacts on the state system, and practices appropriate access control.

Moving Washington

Effective transportation is critical to maintaining our economy, environment and quality of life. Moving Washington is WSDOT's vision of congestion relief investments and priorities for the next decade. It integrates new capacity, efficiencies and commute options to improve the performance of our state's transportation system. The program's primary objective is mobility, one of the state Legislature's five transportation priorities.



2007 SR 17 Pioneer Way to Stratford Rd. ribbon cutting

Tribal Transportation Planning Organization

The Transportation Planning Office staffs the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization, a resource for tribes. The Transportation Planning Office also coordinates the process of tribal nomination of roads to the Indian Reservation Road Inventory as a means of accessing additional funding.

Regional Coordination

Through its Regional Coordination Branch, the Transportation Planning Office manages state planning grants and federal pass-through funds to the state's 14 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and 11 Metropolitan Planning Organizations respectively. The Branch also provides ongoing technical help to all 26 organizations, and seeks to ensure consistency between the statewide multimodal plan and regional transportation plans. It ensures the Governor's approval of annual Transportation Improvement Programs so that the MPOs' projects can receive federal funding.

Local Agencies

The regional Coordination Branch reviews about 700 planning documents a year and identifies about 150 that have significant transportation issues; these are then provided to the Region planning offices which coordinate with local agencies on local comprehensive plans, amendments, and regulations and how they affect the state's transportation system.

Policy Development

The Transportation Planning Office provides policy analysis and research for various issues including climate change, land use/growth management, and other issues. Staff also administers the Transportation Data Library and coordinates and prepares WSDOT's sustainability plan and report updates.

Climate Change is Redefining Transportation Planning

In Washington State, and in national and global arenas transportation professionals are engaged in discussions and committees that are proposing new policies, technical measurement requirements, and performance outcomes for reducing transportation's impact on the environment.

This year, the Washington State Legislature will receive the 2008 Climate Action Team Report. This report will further define expectations on how both land use and transportation planning should address reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

WSDOT, along with its partners, is actively engaged in reducing transportation's contributions to climate change through measurable, balanced, and effective strategies.

In the near-term, WSDOT will:

- Coordinate and conduct an integrated multimodal planning process that facilitates a coordinated, practical, and efficient mobility system designed to significantly enhance travel options.
- Provide statewide guidelines for transportation corridor plans that further increase system efficiency.

Transportation Planning Aligns at Many Levels with Washington's Five Policy Goals

- **Safety** - Provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system.
- **Preservation** - Maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services.
- **Mobility** - Improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout the state.
- **Environment** - Enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment.
- **Stewardship** - Continuously improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.



Aerial view of SR 532