

2021 Highway System Plan Update

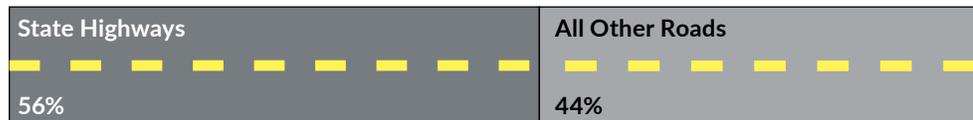
A ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINING OUR STATE HIGHWAYS

Washington State Department of Transportation leadership is updating the Highway System Plan, the agency’s blueprint for preserving, maintaining, improving and operating state highways in Washington.

Planning for state highways matters—over half of vehicle travel in Washington occurs on state highways. People drive cars and ride vanpools and buses on state highways to reach jobs, schools, and services. Truckers transport goods to market on state highways. People who walk and bike travel along and across state highways, supporting prosperous businesses and healthy communities. WSDOT is committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation options for these travelers.

More than half of traffic in Washington occurs on state highways

Vehicle Miles Traveled



Lane Miles



Why update the HSP now?

WSDOT last updated the HSP 12 years ago, and it is time for an update!

WSDOT needs a plan to:

- **Address today’s needs** — including changes in technology, preservation and maintenance shortfalls, demographic shifts, and state fish passage mandates.
- **Reflect a modern strategy** — WSDOT’s Practical Solutions approach prioritizes overall system performance and maintenance over expansion.
- **Anticipate future needs** — including system resilience, clean energy, and the rise of autonomous vehicles.
- **Describe the role of highways** — interstates, US routes, and state routes are part of an integrated multimodal transportation system.

Did you know...

...the average travel time to work statewide increased 7% between 2007 and 2017 for all modes?

Source: US Census Bureau (ACS 5- year estimates)

...WSDOT’s preservation and maintenance programs are funded at only half the level required to maintain a state of good repair?

Source: WSDOT

...Washington’s population will surpass 9 million by 2040?

Source: Office of Financial Management

Highway System Plan Elements - RCW 47.06.050

- **System Preservation** - Establish objectives and recommend funding to preserve the structural integrity of the system.
- **Maintenance** - Establish maintenance service levels and the costs to achieve such service.
- **Capacity & Operational Improvement** - Establish strategies and recommend funding levels to achieve safety, capacity and operations objectives.
- **Scenic & Recreational Highways** - Enhance access to scenic, recreational and cultural resources statewide.
- **Paths & Trails** - Identify needs and funding for active transportation.

How will the HSP meet today's needs?

- Recommend funding levels based on program rather than compiling a project list.
- Evaluate trade-offs within financial constraints.
- Reflect rigorous community engagement.
- Address all highway modes.
- Develop performance-based criteria to evaluate future investments.

How will we update the plan?

WSDOT will collaborate with our partners to analyze how different funding scenarios affect the system, such as:

- What if new funding emphasized capacity expansion?
- What if new funding emphasized preservation and maintenance?
- What if new funding emphasized systems operations and management?
- How rough will the roads be?
- Will bridges close?
- How will investment decisions influence traffic?
- What are funding effects on the climate and natural resources?

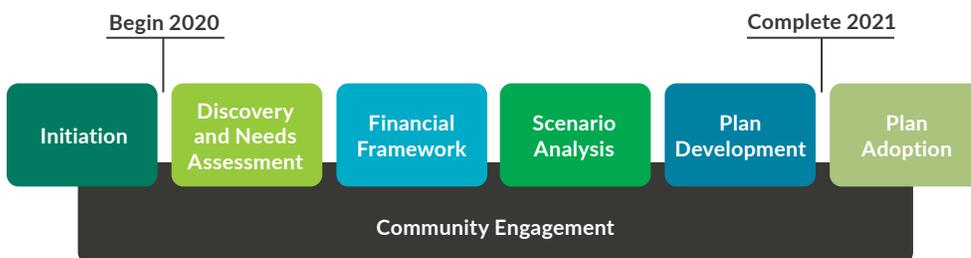
How will the HSP help you?

- Describe the effects of underfunding preservation and maintenance.
- Communicate WSDOT agency policy and direction.
- Provide a common language for communicating priorities and strategies.
- Plan investments that fit within expected revenues - grow within our means.

The analysis in the HSP will help WSDOT set performance expectations and guide recommendations for program investment levels. When the plan is complete, WSDOT will collaborate with Regional Transportation Planning Organizations on selecting specific investments.

What's next?

Stakeholder and community engagement will inform key decision points throughout the planning process.



What are programs?

Programs describe major WSDOT activities such as preservation, maintenance, safety, traffic operations, travel demand management, or capital improvement.

Think of a programmatic HSP like a family budget...

Before deciding what's for dinner next Tuesday, a financially savvy family decides how much to spend on food every month.

As good stewards of the state highway system, WSDOT will use the Highway System Plan to recommend optimal spending across budget programs, before identifying specific projects.

MORE INFORMATION

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