

# **Corridor Sketch Summary**

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WSDOT's Corridor Sketch Initiative is a collaborative planning process with agency partners to identify performance gaps and select high-level strategies to address them on the 304 corridors statewide. This Corridor Sketch Summary acts as an executive summary for one corridor. Please review the User Guide for Corridor Sketch Summaries prior to using information on this corridor:

## SR 17: US 395 Jct (Mesa) to I-90 Jct (Moses Lake)

This 43-mile long, north-south corridor located is in Franklin, Adams, and Grant counties, just south of Moses Lake. The corridor runs between the State Route 17 junction with US Route 395 south of the community of Mesa and the Interstate 90 interchange in Moses Lake. The route's population density is low and the corridor's character is very rural with agricultural land uses throughout its length. Public lands also make up a significant amount of land use along the corridor including Potholes State Park and the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Near the corridor is the city of Othello with relatively dense residential development and some commercial and industrial uses. Southwest of the corridor is the Yakama Indian Reservation. The Columbia Basin rail line is also located near the corridor. Three airports are located near the corridor including Othello Municipal, Warden, and Grant County International Municipal. The corridor's terrain is generally very flat. Vegetation on the corridor includes low growing desert plants and agricultural fields.



## **Current Function**

SR 17 is a north-south state highway that serves the Columbia Plateau in the central region of Washington providing a more direct connection between major east-west facilities like I-90 and US 2. This section of SR 17 is a vital transportation corridor for agricultural goods. The corridor serves as a connector for agricultural areas to urban centers like Moses Lake and the Tri-Cities. SR 17 intersects with SR 260, SR 26, SR 170, and SR 262. This corridor is a major freight route and provides rural access to businesses, schools, and residential areas, as well as medical facilities in Othello and Moses Lake. This corridor also provides access to the Potholes State Park, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, and the Scooteney Reservoir. The corridor is classified as a Highway of Historic Significance and a Scenic Byway. The Grant Transit Authority provides limited bus service between Warden and Moses Lake.

## **Future Function**

Based on the projected population, land use, and economic trends, the future function of this corridor is expected to remain the same.

## **Highlights and Performance**

This portion of SR 17 is a two-lane, undivided, unsignalized highway that expands to three signalized lanes at the I-90 junction. The corridor also includes passing lanes near the SR 262 junction and center turn lanes at intersections with local streets. It is also briefly divided at the SR 26 junction in Othello. The annual average daily traffic on this corridor is highest at the I-90 junction in Moses Lake and lowest at the US 395 junction in Mesa.

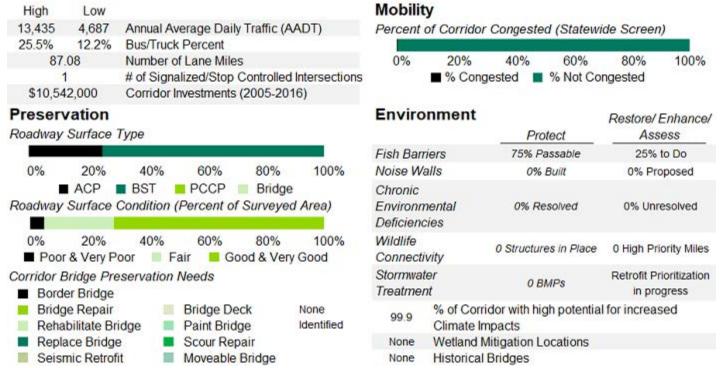
### What's working well?

- Over 99% of the corridor operates above WSDOT's congestion threshold.
- Paratransit service is available through the entire corridor.
- Recently installed signing at county road intersections has improved safety and mobility on the corridor.

### What needs to change?

- There are preservation problems on the corridor's shoulders at intersections due to turning freight.
- There is no fixed-route transit service available on the corridor.
- There is an ongoing conflict between slow-moving freight and other traffic creating forced passing.
- The corridor has a medium climate change vulnerability rating due to dust, high winds, and fog.

WSDOT monitors the state system in ongoing efforts to track asset performance. For this corridor, WSDOT finds:



#### 1) 2015 data unless otherwise noted. 2) For more information see the User Guide for Corridor Sketch Summaries at http://bit.ly/WSDOTcorridorsketch

#### What we heard from our partners

WSDOT collected feedback from agency partners. Key themes included:

- Partners would like to see composition changes made to the corridor intersection shoulders, which experience high levels of freight movement, specifically Lee Road in Othello.
- Concerns about the lack of passing opportunities and designated turn lanes at multiple locations, particularly the Cunningham Road, Providence Road, Bench Road, and Hampton Road intersections in Othello.
- A desire to add lighted stop and warning signing at the corridor's other intersections.
- Multiple partners expressed a desire for installed intersection control at the Cunningham Road intersection in Othello.
- One partner said they would like to address the accessibility of the park and ride at the I-90 intersection, which becomes difficult to access during peak hours.

# **Strategies**

WSDOT identified the following strategies and associated actions to keep the corridor working well and address performance gaps. Regional partners collaborated on high-level mobility strategies. The identified strategies are not meant to be all-inclusive, nor an established list of priorities. Further evaluation is needed before any strategy can be recommended as a solution to address performance. Project funding decisions will take place at the programming phase, and are subject to statewide prioritization. For more strategy information, visit the Corridor Sketch Summary User Guide.

Policy Goals / Strategies	Description and Near-Term Actions
<b>Economic Vitality</b>	
Under Development	WSDOT will continue to work with partners in developing strategies to address economic vitality.
Environment	
Protect and Maintain	Protect and maintain existing assets that provide environmental function (these include WSDOT's mitigation sites, storm water systems, fish passable culverts).
Enhance or Restore	Enhance or restore natural areas and environmental functions associated with the multimodal transportation system.
Fish Barrier Retrofit	WSDOT has prioritized the removal of state-owned culverts that block habitat for salmon and steelhead. See interactive map of uncorrected fish barriers at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/FishPassage/default.htm.
Mobility	
Multimodal	WSDOT will continue to pursue multimodal strategies to address performance issues, improve connectivity and transportation options while also closing gaps in our non-motorized/active transportation system.
Assessment	Further information about the proposed strategies can be found attached at the end of this document.
Preservation	
Maintenance	Preservation will include strategic pavement maintenance as necessary to extend the life of the pavement and utility of the asset.
Maintenance	Based on expenditure history, it is expected that the top three activities will continue to be maintenance on snow and ice control, rest areas, and weed control.
Pavement	WSDOT will continue to make spot repairs in areas that make sense for preservation of the pavement surface, along with, all other components of the roadway prism.
Pavement	WSDOT has identified three Pavement actions in the next six years encompassing 34% of the corridor.
Safety	
Investment	WSDOT has identified six Safety Investment actions in the next six years encompassing 21% of the corridor.
Stewardship	
Planning	Under Practical Solutions, the Corridor Sketch Initiative identifies corridor performance, and assesses alternative strategies to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.

#### For more information

To find out more information about this corridor or how to get involved, please contact:

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Washington State Department of Transportation's Corridor Sketch Initiative is a set of planning activities that engage our partners to define the context and performance information for all of the state's 304 highway corridors. The Corridor Sketch complements and supports regional planning processes in Washington. It is not intended to duplicate, substitute or compete with other planning efforts; nor is it intended to generate lists of projects.

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