

# **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 243: SR 24 Jct (Vernita) to SR 26 Jct

This 28-mile long north-south corridor is located in south central Washington, running adjacent to the Columbia River. The corridor travels between the Hanford Reach National Monument and the junction with State Route 26 south of Vantage, running through Mattawa, Desert Aire, and the small communities of Schwana, Beverly and Wanapum Village. The corridor is very rural in character with open, undeveloped land as the primary land use. Within the small communities, land use continues to be rural with low density residential units. Within Mattawa and Desert Aire, the corridor's character is suburban with higher density residential land uses. Other land uses located on the corridor consist of irrigated agricultural areas. The corridor's terrain is rolling as the route travels over the open, desert landscape. The entire corridor runs along the Columbia River which flows concurrently with Wanapum Lake located at the north end. One airport, Desert Aire, is located off the corridor. Vegetation on the corridor is primarily dry grass and shrubbery with patches of mixed trees.



## **Current Function**

SR 243 is a state highway that is located entirely within Grant County and serves Desert Aire, Mattawa, Beverly, and Vantage. This corridor provides connections for locations beyond the corridor by linking with Interstate 90, SR 24, and SR 26. Grant Transit Authority provides service as well as ADA paratransit service as far as Wanapum Dam.

# **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**

SR 243 is a two-lane, undivided highway with occasional turn lanes and a roundabout. The annual average daily traffic on this corridor is highest around Vantage and Matawa and quite sparse on the remainder of the corridor.

# What's working well?

- The entire corridor performs above WSDOT's congestion threshold.
- Roughly 93% of surveyed pavements on the corridor are in fair or better condition.

# What needs to change?

- There are no multimodal opportunities on the corridor.
- Edge breaking on corridor shoulders are present, as are multiple potholes.
- The major increase in truck traffic on the corridor is making conditions worse and resurfacing less optimal.

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



<sup>1) 2015</sup> 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 is interested in collecting feedback from our partners. To provide feedback on this corridor, please contact the office indicated on the last page of this document.

# **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 | <b>Description and Near-Term Actions</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| <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                | A mobility performance strategy has not been identified by WSDOT.  |
| 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 one Pavement action in the next six years encompassing 100% of the corridor.  |
| Safety                    |  |
| Investment                | WSDOT has identified one Safety Investment action in the next six years encompassing 16% 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.

Under 23 U.S. Code § 148 and 23 U.S. Code § 409, safety data, reports, surveys, schedules, lists compiled or collected for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, or planning the safety enhancement of potential crash sites, hazardous roadway conditions, or railway-highway crossings are not subject to discovery or admitted into evidence in a Federal or State court proceeding or considered for other purposes in any action for damages arising from any occurrence at a location mentioned or addressed in such reports, surveys, schedules, lists, or data.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the event sponsor (enter name of event sponsor and phone number), by (insert date-usually two weeks advance notice). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the event sponsor through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.

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