

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 24: SR 243 Jct to SR 26 Jct (Othello)

This 35-mile east-west corridor runs between the State Route 243 junction north of the Vernita Bridge in Grant County and the SR 26 junction within the community of Othello in Adams County. The corridor's character is primarily rural with agriculture and undeveloped land as the major land uses along the route. Commercial, residential, and industrial uses are present within the city limits of Othello, and the character shifts to suburban. This route runs along the northern boundary of the Hanford Site, a mostly decommissioned nuclear production complex. The Columbia River is located to the south of the corridor and both the Priest Rapids Dam and Desert Aire Airport are located at the west end of the corridor. At the eastern end point, the route parallels the Royal Slope Line railroad and the Othello Municipal Airport. The corridor's terrain is rolling throughout and passes through sage lands and irrigated agriculture.



Current Function

SR 24 is a state highway that runs between the interchange with Interstate 82 in Yakima and SR 26 in Othello. This section of SR 24 is a heavily used freight route with Hampton and Bench Roads. The corridor is vital to the agriculture related industry and other freight distribution centers and warehouses, many of which border the corridor. The corridor is critical to transporting agricultural harvest around the state. The corridor intersects with both SR 26 near Othello and SR 243 near Hanford Reach Monument. This corridor is used by commuters as a link between Othello and other cities, such as Yakima and Union Gap located west of the corridor, and by recreational travelers. Bicyclist and pedestrian facilities are not available on the corridor, but the corridor's wide shoulders can be utilized as such.

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 corridor is a two-lane, undivided highway with several designated left turn lanes just south of Othello. The annual average daily traffic on this corridor is highest at W Park Street in Othello and lowest at the SR 243 intersection.

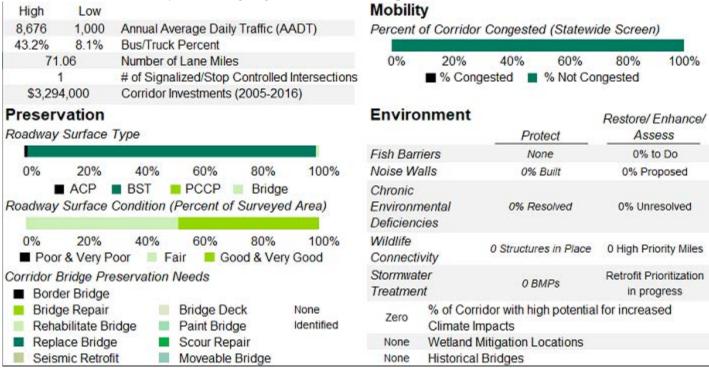
What's working well?

- The entire corridor performs above WSDOT's congestion threshold.
- There are multimodal opportunities on the corridor such as freight distribution centers and warehouses.
- The corridor has a low climate change vulnerability rating despite dust storms and grass fires.

What needs to change?

- Ongoing pothole problems near Radar Hill.
- Washouts are a common occurrence on the corridor.

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:

- Bench Road has been identified as having a high collision risk causing concern on improving the collision risk.
- Interest in a truck route bypass to avoid the city.
- Interest in adequate intersection surfacing to accommodate freight traffic, specifically Hampton Road.
- Consider intersection needs at W Atkinson Road to meet demand.

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
Economic Vitality	
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 52% of the corridor.
Safety	
Investment	WSDOT has identified one Safety Investment action in the next six years at a single location on this 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.

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