

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 124: US 12 Jct (Pasco) to US 12 Jct (Waitsburg)

This 45-mile long east-west corridor is located in southeast Washington. The corridor runs between the US Route 12 junction in Burbank and the city of Waitsburg while passing through the small city of Prescott. With the exception of Burbank, Prescott, and Waitsburg, the corridor's character is rural. Land uses consist of irrigated crops, dryland farms, and rural residential. Within Burbank, Prescott, and Waitsburg, the corridor is suburban in character with agricultural, residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional land uses laid out in grid patterns. The Columbia River is located at the western endpoint while portions of the corridor parallel the Snake and Touchet rivers. Terrain throughout the western half of the corridor is level while the eastern half is rolling as it travels through the surrounding hills. The corridor crosses over the Union Pacific Railroad near the west end and parallels the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad between Prescott and Waitsburg.



Current Function

State Route 124 encompasses the corridor in full and links the communities of Burbank, Prescott, and Waitsburg. This corridor primarily functions as a rural minor arterial, serving as a Walla Walla bypass route. The route is a farm-to-market route not only for the adjacent farms, but also for regional products going to and from the barge ports along the Snake River and processing facilities in the Tri-Cities. The route provides access to the Snake River for Ice Harbor Dam and various recreational areas. The corridor serves as the main access route for the communities through which it passes. The corridor intersects US 12 in two locations, and SR 125 at a third location. Bicycling and pedestrian use is permitted along corridor shoulders. A new grade-separated railroad crossing of a Union Pacific mainline was completed in 2017.

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 124 is primarily a two-lane, undivided highway with few turn lanes and one roundabout located in Burbank. The annual average daily traffic on this corridor is highest at its junction with US 12 in Burbank and lowest just west of Waitsburg.

What's working well?

- The entire corridor performs above WSDOT's congestion threshold.
- There is a river otter crossing underneath SR 124 in the Hood Park.
- There are no chronic environmental deficiencies identified on the corridor.
- There are no identified fish barriers on the corridor.
- There is a new grade-separated railroad crossing of a Union Pacific mainline in the Monument Drive vicinity that has improved safety and mobility for both SR 124 traffic and the railroad.

What needs to change?

- Roughly 49% of pavement conditions have not been surveyed.
- Pedestrian crossings in cities and communities are inadequate.
- No bicycle facilities are present along the corridor.
- The sharp corners in Waitsburg are difficult for trucks to negotiate.
- At times, it is difficult for traffic or people to cross or enter SR 124 at the N Lake Road/S Lake Road intersection.

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:

- Safety concern about the children who frequently ride their bicycle on the corridor's narrow shoulders.
- Desire for left turn channelization in Burbank Heights.
- Interest in commuting opportunities (public transportation or incentives) as some individuals commute between Dayton, Prescott, Eureka, and Burbank to the Tri-Cities.
- Turn lanes are needed for Broetje Orchards (at Fishhook Park Road).
- Passing lanes are desired in several locations on the corridor. At times, traffic is very congested or there are slow agricultural vehicles and risky passing is done.

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 Economic Vitality	Description and Near-Term Actions
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	
Assessment	A mobility performance strategy has not been identified by WSDOT.
Preservation	
Maintenance	Based on expenditure history, it is expected that the top three activities will continue to be maintenance on snow and ice control, pavement repair, and safety patrols.
Pavement	WSDOT has identified two Pavement actions in the next six years encompassing 24% of the corridor.
Safety	
Investment	WSDOT has identified one Safety Investment action in the next six years encompassing 3% 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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