

# **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 221: SR 14 Jct to SR 22 Jct (Prosser)

This 26-mile long north-south corridor is located in south central Washington near the Oregon state border. The corridor runs between the State Route 14 junction in the unincorporated community of Paterson in the south near the Columbia River and the SR 22 junction in the city of Prosser to the north. The route traverses over the Horse Heaven Hills between both communities. The corridor is predominantly rural in character with agriculture and open space being the primary land uses. Irrigated farmland is present at the south end of the corridor while dryland farming is located at the north end of the corridor. Scant rural residential land uses are scattered throughout the corridor. Within the city of Prosser, the corridor is denser with more residential and civic uses present. One airport, the Prosser Airport, is located north of the corridor. BNSF mainline rail lines are located at each end. Vegetation on the corridor is comprised of shrubbery, long grasses, and farmland.



## **Current Function**

SR 221 is a state highway that is located entirely within Benton County connecting SR 14 and Interstate 82 (via SR 22), and serving Paterson and Prosser, the county seat. The corridor provides access over the Horse Heaven Hills. Access to the Columbia River is just south of the SR 221/SR 14 junction. The corridor functions primarily as an agriculture and freight corridor. It serves a very large and significant agricultural area in southern Benton County. The route has a long steep grade just outside Prosser that ascends the Horse Heaven Hills and includes a truck-climbing lane. The scenic overlook at the top provides sweeping views of the Yakima Valley and surrounding hills. The corridor also provides service for tourists visiting wineries. A major winery is located on SR 221 near Paterson and attracts many tourists. In addition, there are many other wineries nearby in the Prosser area. The corridor is an alternate to US Route 97 and I-82. The corridor provides connections to two park and rides. Ben Franklin Transit provides service in Prosser.

## **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 221 is primarily a two-lane, undivided highway and transitions to a three-lane highway near Prosser. The annual average daily traffic on this corridor is highest just east of SR 22 and lowest in Prosser.

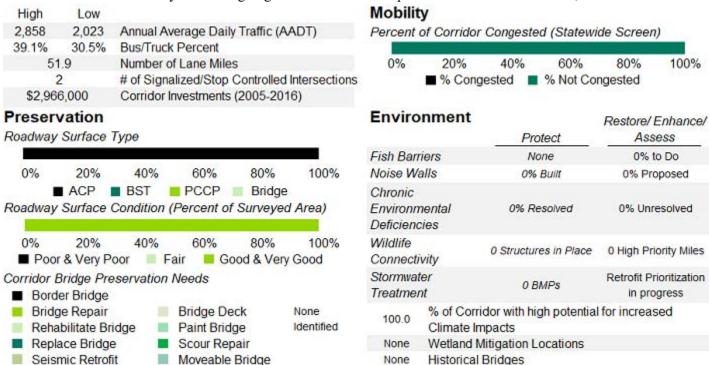
## What's working well?

- The entire corridor performs above WSDOT's congestion threshold.
- Roughly 99% of surveyed pavements on the corridor are in fair or better condition.

## What needs to change?

- The entire corridor is identified as moderately vulnerable to climate impacts.
- There is an active rockfall site along the steep grade southeast of Prosser.
- Analyze the contributing factors related to fatal and serious injuries on this corridor.
- Trucks park on the roadway's shoulders for a long time at the viewpoint at the top of the hill above Prosser, affecting corridor operations.

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 collected feedback from agency partners. Key themes included:

• Desire for protected turning movements at major intersections due to high speed truck traffic on corridor.

# **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	
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 vegetation control.
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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