

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan

Paula Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Dave Dye, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

Steve Reinmuth
Chief of Staff

Barbara Ivanov
Freight Systems Division Co-Director
Washington State Department of Transportation

Washington State Transportation Commission
March 22, 2011

Washington's Economy Depends on a Stronger Freight Transportation System

Washington's investment in freight systems supports our growing economy, maintains freight access to our major markets and ports, lowers business costs, and sustains jobs.

- \$27 million of freight moves on Washington roadways every hour of every day.
- Our system of roads, rails, ports, marine waterways and intermodal facilities supported total exports from Washington valued at \$52 billion in 2009.
- In 2010, freight-dependent industries accounted for over 35% of Washington's jobs.
 - Retail and wholesale distribution supports nearly 447,000 jobs.
 - "Made in Washington" products support 404,000 jobs.



Source: WSDOT Freight Systems Division

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

The Washington State Legislature has established transportation policy goals (RCW 47.04.280). The Washington State Freight Mobility Plan will address:

- **Economic Vitality:** To promote and develop transportation systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and goods to ensure a prosperous economy.
- **Safety:** To provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system.
- **Mobility:** To improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington State.
- **Environment:** To enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment.

The State Freight Mobility Plan will develop freight transportation strategies and recommendations to support sustainable economic growth, the environment and social needs in Washington State.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

In the Washington Transportation Plan 2030 (WTP), the Washington State Transportation Commission developed foundational themes, strategic drivers and adopted policy recommendations. The State Freight Mobility Plan will:

- Support WTP foundational theme – “The State’s Transportation System Needs to Work as an Integrated Network, Effectively Connecting across Modes and Jurisdictions.”
- Recognize WTP strategic drivers that particularly apply to freight systems -
 - “Transportation Policy Should Support and Reinforce Other State Policy Objectives.
 - The Relationship between Land Use and Transportation Is Key.
 - There are Significant Differences across Regions and One Size Does Not Fit All.
 - It Is Critical to Educate, Inform, and Reach Out to the Public.
 - Continue the Evolution to Performance-based Programs.”

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: Policy Basis

The State Freight Mobility Plan will support WTP 2030 freight-related strategies to:

- Improve Washington's Economic Competitiveness
- Strengthen Connectivity of People and Communities
- Support the Coordinated, Connected and Efficient Movement of Freight and Goods
- Ensure the Ability to Build and Expand Essential Public Facilities
- Support Mobility Options to Help Communities Meet the Public's Travel Needs
- Improve Connectivity to Facilitate Travel Across Modes and Communities
- Accelerate Clean Transportation Options
- Continue to Implement Performance Measures to Ensure Accountability
- Leverage Available Technologies to Maximize Efficiency in the Transportation System

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work

Goals -

- Make a strong case for funding Washington state freight priority projects and programs in the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and future state transportation packages.
- Guide capital and operating investments in the state's freight systems.

Objectives –

The Washington State Freight Mobility Plan will develop freight transportation strategies to support three objectives:

- Livable urban communities that support jobs and the economy, provide goods delivery to residents and businesses, and provide a clean environment for all. 'Delivering Goods to You' is an essential function of modern cities.
- The Administration's and the Governor's Export Initiative through multistate, intermodal freight corridors serving international and interstate commerce. Washington is a 'Global Gateway' to the nation.
- Rural economies' farm-to-market, manufacturing and resource industry sectors – 'Made in Washington' products provide wealth and jobs throughout the state.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 1.

Review current and proposed federal and state freight transportation benefit criteria:

- Identify current federal freight project and program criteria and Benefit/Cost methodology requirements.
- Identify federal freight project and program criteria found in FHWA and U.S. DOT national freight policy, proposed federal freight bills, SAFETEA-LU freight policies and programs, and TIGER I and II evaluation criteria.

Review other states' freight plans for best practices.

Task 2.

Update network description, relevant statistics and description of use of the state's freight systems found in the 2008 Washington Transportation Plan Freight Report.

Determine data requirements and data sources for the Plan.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 3.

Conduct gap analysis of connectivity of state freight systems.

- Develop a draft list of essential state freight intermodal facilities and connectors based on factors to include:
 - Washington State’s currently designated National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Facilities and Connectors.
 - The Governor’s “Container Ports and Land Use Report.”
 - The Washington State Freight Rail Plan.
 - The State Long-Range Aviation Transportation Plan.
 - Information provided by Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations and Ports, including:
 - Recommended essential state freight facilities and connectors and regional criteria used to identify them,
 - Locations of Manufacturing and Industrial Centers.
- Develop draft state criteria and/or thresholds to identify essential state freight facilities.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 4.

Identify current freight system deficiencies:

- Systematically collect GPS onboard truck data and conduct analysis of truck bottlenecks on major freight corridors, statewide.
- Conduct statewide survey and economic analysis of the cost of truck congestion to Washington State's economy.
- Identify and prioritize truck accident locations on the state highway system.
- Incorporate findings of WSDOT Truck Parking Study listing priority locations for additional capacity.
- Conduct interviews and focus groups with shippers and carriers in regions' key freight-dependent sectors to determine current freight system performance requirements and deficiencies.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 4 (cont).

Identify current freight system deficiencies:

- Hold one to two public workshops to be hosted by Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Spokane, Tri-Cities, Bellingham, Central Puget Sound and Vancouver for stakeholders to review and provide input on draft Plan deliverables.
- Invite the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization to hold a State Freight Mobility Plan workshop. Send the draft plan to tribal leaders for review and comment.
- Social media outreach - Explore hosting online statewide and/or regional 'Friends of Freight' discussions of plan goals, objectives and recommendations.
- Incorporate findings of the State Freight Rail Plan, the Long-range Aviation Transportation Plan and the Highway System Plan.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 5.

Identification of future freight system demands.

- Plan and hold a one-day “Future of Freight Symposium” to prepare, by evaluating multiple future trade scenarios, for future demand on Washington State freight systems.



Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 6.

Form and support three expert Technical Teams to:

- Define specific, measurable freight benefits associated with the Plan's three objectives. The list of freight benefits will be reviewed by the State Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Group before being incorporated into WSDOT's freight highway and intermodal project Benefit/Cost evaluation tools.
- Confirm and/or update freight system deficiencies found in current state and local transportation plans, and through shipper, carrier and stakeholder outreach.
- Draft strategies to improve freight system deficiencies associated with each objective.
- Recommend draft performance measures for the strategies.

Hold up to three in-person meetings for each Technical Team, and support work done via conference calls or email between meetings.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 7.

Develop draft Freight Benefit/Cost evaluation methodology for state freight highway and truck intermodal projects based on defined freight benefits from Task 6 and analysis of freight system connectivity in Task 3.

Task 8.

Analyze causes and develop solutions to address the worst truck highway bottlenecks in Central Puget Sound and statewide; see Task 4.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 9.

Form and support a State Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Group to review the draft Freight Benefit criteria and Benefit/Cost methodology.

Hold two meetings of the Plan Advisory Group:

- Meeting 1 – Present Technical Teams' deliverables and draft Freight Benefit/Methodology for review and comment.
- Meeting 2 – Present draft freight project packages determined by application of Freight Benefit Methodology for review and comment.

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 10.

Evaluate highway and truck intermodal project proposals using freight Benefit/Cost methodology.

Task 11.

Recommend phased list of needed improvements and solutions:

- Short-term – Years one to six
- Mid-term – Years seven to 12
- Long-term – Years 13 – 20
- Those for which future study is needed

Washington State Freight Mobility Plan: DRAFT Scope of Work Tasks

Task 12.

Outline funding options and revenue sources; develop matrix of sources and uses for Appendix.

Task 13.

Develop and implement Truck Performance Measure methodology to track four key system performance measures on the state's primary truck freight corridors: average speed, reliability, congestion threshold and volume.

Task 14.

Prepare State Freight Mobility Plan.

- Draft the State Freight Mobility Plan and distribute for public review.
- Publish and distribute the final Washington State Freight Mobility Plan.

Questions?

For more information on the
Washington State Freight Mobility Plan,
please contact:

Barbara Ivanov
Washington State Department of Transportation
Freight Systems Division
Co-Director
ivanovb@wsdot.wa.gov