



About Connecting Washington

January 18, 2011

Washington State Transportation Commission



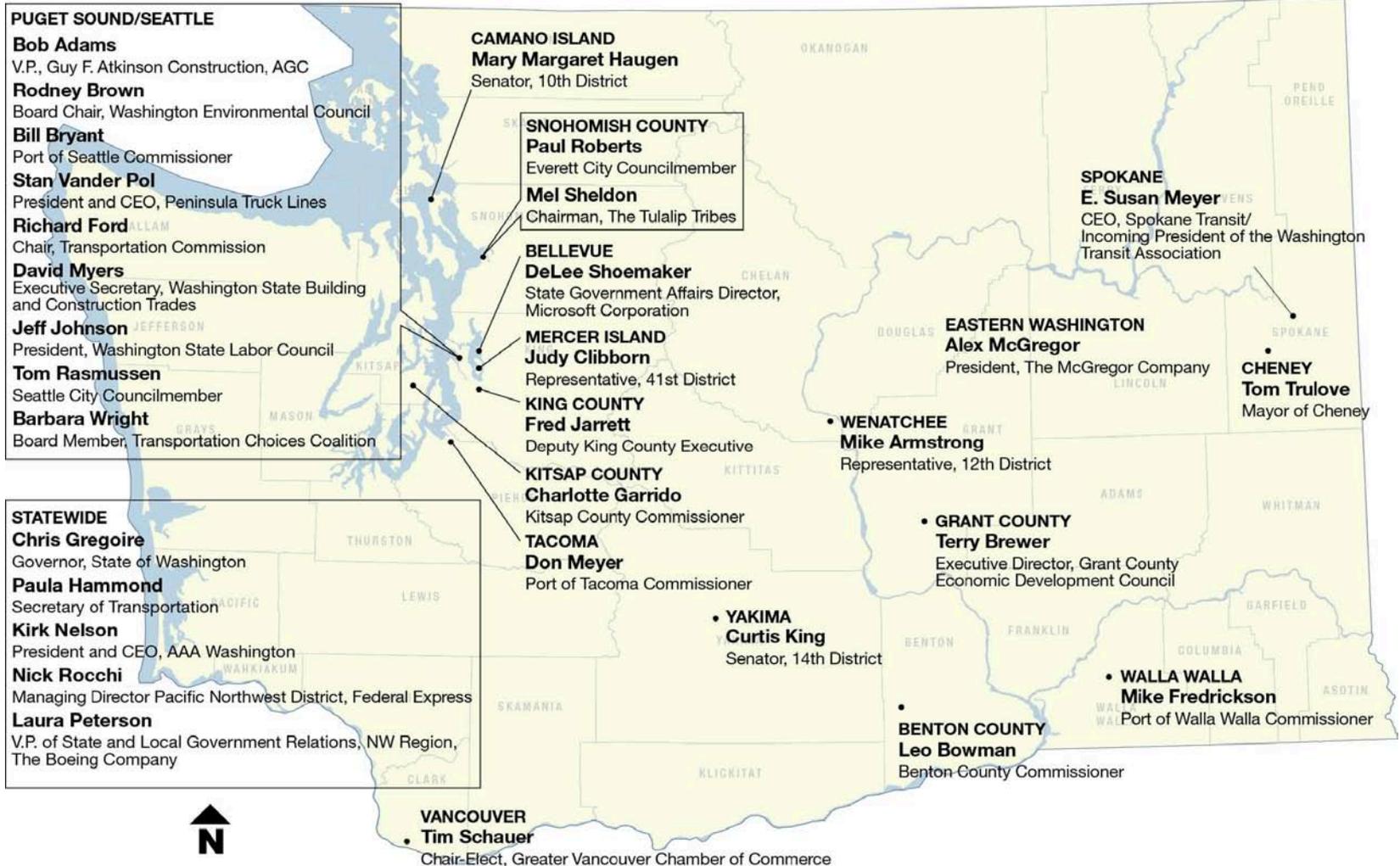
Charge

Create a 10-year strategy to make the critical investments required to preserve and improve the statewide transportation system. The strategy must be designed to drive economic growth, enhance our state's leadership in the global economy, and retain and create jobs.





Members





Transportation is the Backbone of Washington's Economy



Creating & supporting jobs

- Manufacturers, agribusiness construction and forestry sectors depend on freight network and support more than 528,000 jobs.
- 74% of highway capital program dollars are contracted to private sector.
- 3,600 miles of public and private freight railroad moved 102 million tons of freight in 2009.





Creating & supporting jobs

- \$27 million in goods travel on WA roadways every hour and nearly \$52 billion of goods were exported in 2009.
- Transit systems reach 85% of the state's population, providing 203 million passenger trips annually.
- Ferries connect workers and communities to jobs, consumers and tourists.
- 474 million tons of international and national trade flow through Washington annually.





Transportation has Significant Challenges and Needs



Need for investment up...

- State population up 1.8 million over last two decades, projected to increase another 1.3 million by 2025.
- Increased competition means cargos will be diverted from our region – ports require efficient ground transportation to remain competitive.
- From major highways to local city streets, our roadways need repair and preservation. Current funding for city maintenance only covers one-third of on-going needs and does not address critical maintenance backlog.
- 20% of county bridges need repair or replacement.
- Changing economics and commuter patterns creating increased demand for transit, expected to grow by 90% by 2020.
- Statewide congestion cost businesses and drivers \$608 million in 2009.





... Available resources are down

- Federal revenue declining and not likely to increase.
- With the near completion of ARRA projects, Washington lost 4,200 construction jobs during October/November of 2010 - more than any other state.
- Gas tax funds are committed and limited and 80% of the state's direct transportation revenues are from flat rate taxes and fees.
- Only 8 cents per gallon of the gas tax available for maintenance, preservation.
- Sales tax revenue has decreased, provides 73% of funding for state transit.





Key corridors and services at risk

- Key economic corridors will remain incomplete, increasing delay for businesses, people importers and exporters.
- Examples include: I-5 Columbia River Crossing, I-90 Snoqualmie Pass, US 12 Walla Walla, US 395 North Spokane Corridor.
- The ferry system faces a \$1.3 billion shortfall for operating and capital investments in the next 10 years.
- Some transit agencies have cut service by almost 40%, while increasing fares and continuing to face declining sales tax revenue.



Developing a Solution



Investment Principles

- Preserve existing transportation systems and services.
- Improve mobility for people and commerce.
- Enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system.
- Provide community and environmental improvements that help attract, keep and expand private businesses and a highly skilled work force.





Level of Investment

- The Task Force recommends an investment of \$21 billion in state funding during the next 10 years to preserve the transportation system and make strategic investments in corridors that hold the key to job creation and economic growth.
- The Task Force estimates the amount needed to fully address the objectives is approximately \$50 billion.





Funding Options

- The Task Force recommends that the Legislature consider a combination of fee increases and tax increases to fund needed transportation investments.
- The Task Force recommends that the Legislature expand the funding options that can be enacted at the local level to support the transportation system.
- The Task Force also recommends that the State begin planning now for a transition to more sustainable funding sources for transportation.





Accountability Recommendations

- Improve coordination between state and local transportation agencies.
- Develop performance management systems that improve the functioning of the transportation system, streamline decision-making and reduce costs.
- Tie resource allocations and grant programs to quality standards.
- Develop clear and concise metrics to measure progress.





More Information

- More information on Governor Gregoire's website:
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/>.
- Tell us what you think:
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp>

