



# WTP2035

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN

CONNECTING WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES  
FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

## WTP 2035 Draft Final

Briefing for the Transportation Commission

December 9, 2014

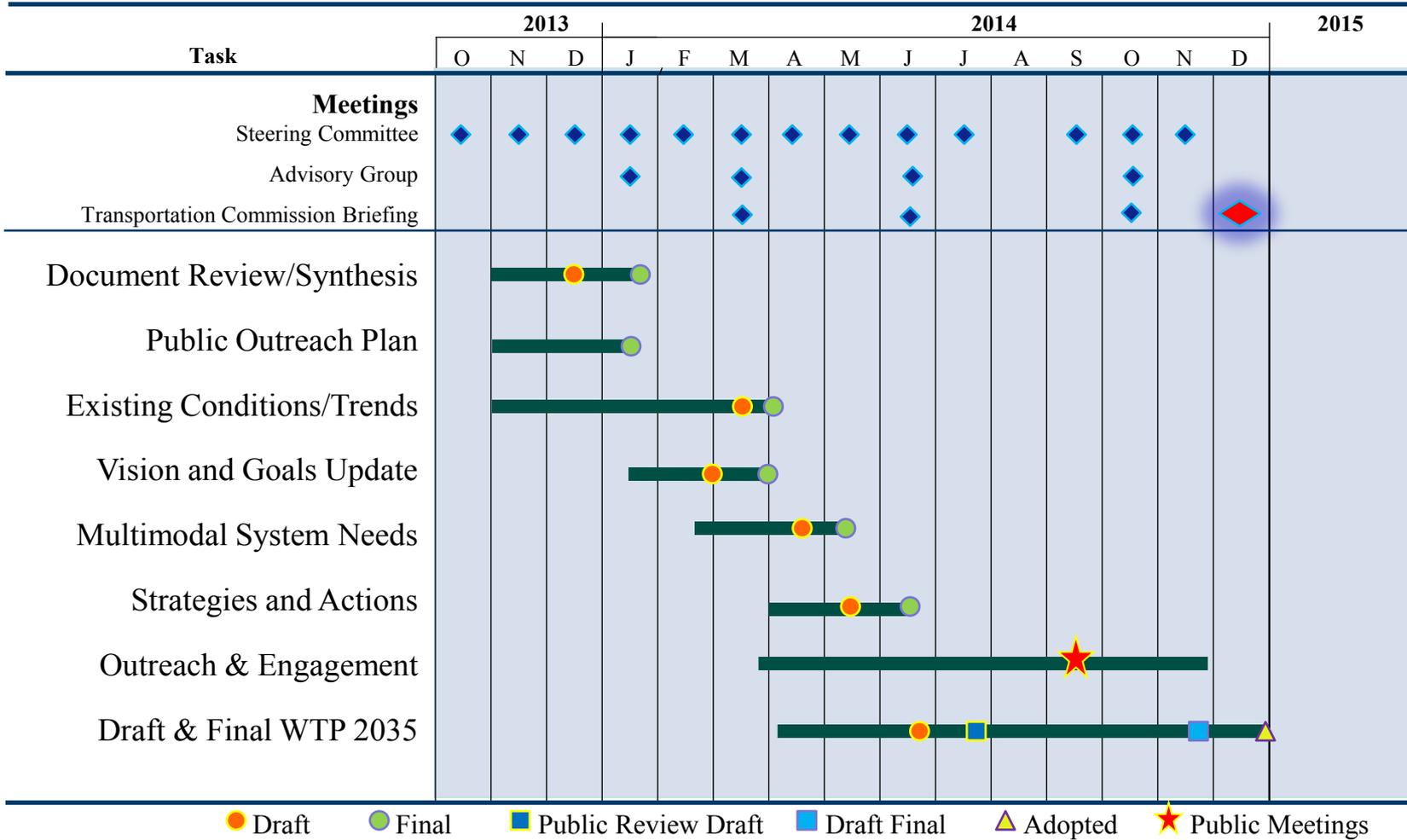
# Agenda

1. Summary of recent WTP 2035 activities
2. Important messages for decision makers
3. Key findings
4. Strategies and recommended actions in WTP 2035
5. Discussion of steps for completion

# Chronology of Recent WTP Activities

- WTP 2035 public review draft released early August
- Public and stakeholder engagement August-September
- Advisory Group meeting on October 7 to review public comment and provide guidance for draft final
- Commission Briefing on October 15 to review outreach findings, Advisory Group input
- Administrative draft final WTP reviewed by WTP Steering Committee November 14
- Draft final WTP 2035 sent to Commissioners on November 26
- Today: Commission briefing and discussion session; consideration for adoption

# WTP 2035 Project Schedule



# Context for WTP 2035 Recommendations

- System utilization is increasing in the post-recession, across multiple modes, for passengers and freight
- Insufficient discretionary funding exists to address both known and unanticipated future transportation needs
- Spending on essential maintenance and preservation continues to lag estimates of need
- Energy price volatility continues, and projecting the impact on travel demand and gas tax revenue is more difficult
- Changing demographics and employment trends present challenges for projecting future needs and preferences

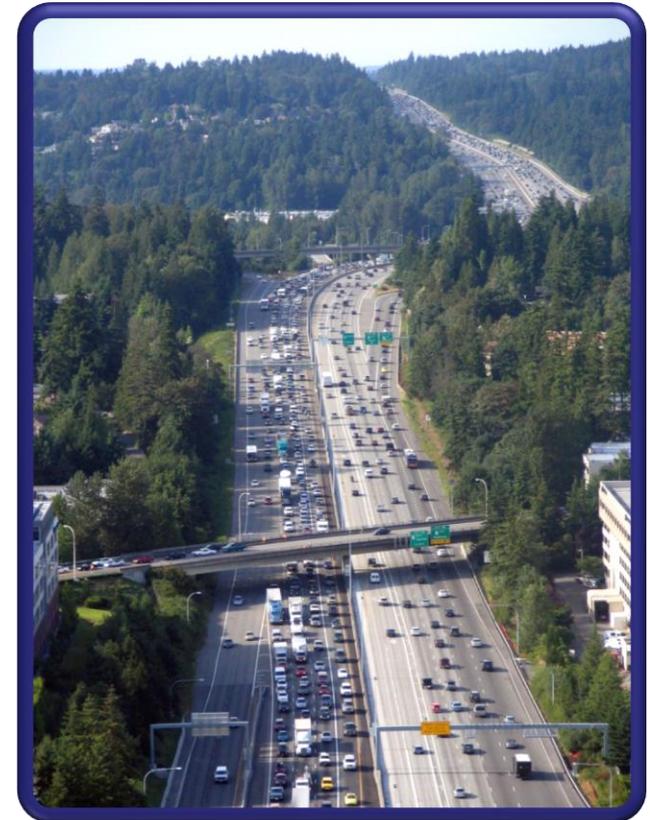
# Important Messages for Decision Makers

Several important messages emerged repeatedly from listening sessions with the public, stakeholders, and the WTP Advisory Group, most notably:

- Secure, sustainable funding is needed to ensure the long-term preservation of existing infrastructure and to meet growing demand in many regions of the state
- Reliable, efficient freight movement is critical in terms of jobs, balance of trade, and economic competitiveness of the state
- There is an important role for the state to play in planning and delivering multimodal transportation services and infrastructure, including public transit

# Key Findings of WTP 2035

- Preservation and Maintenance
- Safety
- Freight Mobility and the Economy
- Energy and Environment
- Public Transportation
- Interregional Connectivity
- Public Health
- Tribal Transportation
- Accountability



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Preservation and Maintenance

- A state and regional and local challenge due to declining revenues
- Lack of adequate dedicated funding and inability to shift funds to where most needed
- There is a substantial need for seismic retrofit
- Potential solutions include:
  - Enhanced local transportation revenue options
  - Sustainable state-level funding source directed to local preservation



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Safety

- Significant progress has been made to improve roadway system safety
- Tribal and rural, two-lane roads still a challenge



- More attention needs be paid to improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Particular need on local city streets and county roads



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Freight Mobility and the Economy

- Both truck and rail freight shipments are expected to grow significantly
- Ports depend upon effective roadway, rail and water shipping networks and connections
- Concerns over system reliability and safety, increasing roadway delays at rail crossings



- Preservation, smart system management, and strategic capacity investments particularly on strategic freight corridors and “first and last mile” connections

# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Energy and the Environment

- Transportation policy can leverage achievement of other state policy objectives, such as conserving energy, reducing GHG emissions, and improving wildlife habitat
- Emerging concerns about potential impacts to sensitive ecosystems from elevated shipping activity



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Public Transportation

- Strong stakeholder support for more investment in public transportation to meet growing demand
- The state has many interests in public transportation:
  - Supports achievement of legislatively-mandated policy goals including growth management, emission reduction, energy conservation, and storm water management
  - Connecting different regions
  - Better mobility for the poor, elderly, and other special-needs populations
  - Crucial to meeting the economic development, education, and health care needs for Washington's tribes



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Interregional Connectivity

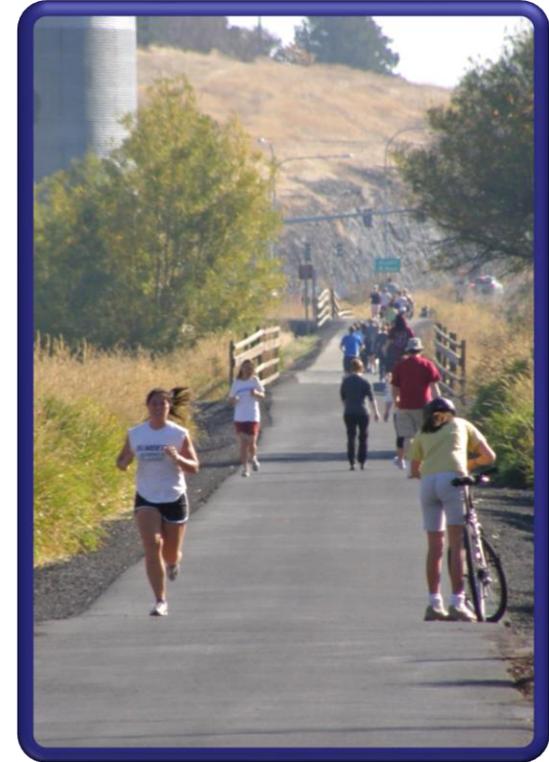
- Important to maintain and improve connectivity between regions of the state for people, agricultural goods and finished products
  - All-weather roads
  - Rural transit
  - Ferry service
  - Commercial passenger air service at smaller airports



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Public Health Transportation

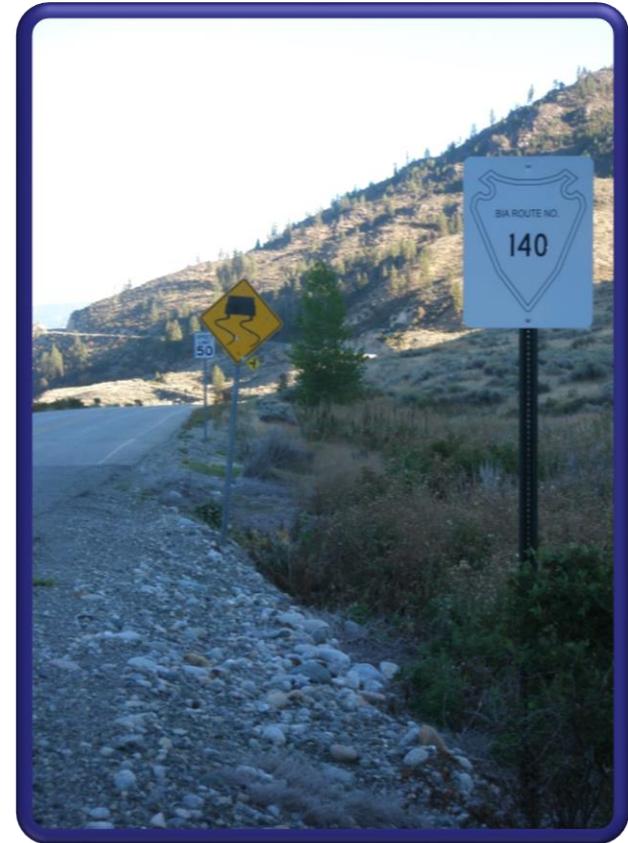
- Better coordination of state policies on transportation and public health
- Increased bicycling, walking, and public transit use contribute to overall improved personal health
- Potentially significant health benefits and cost savings to the state if pursued as a statewide strategy



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Tribal Transportation Needs

- Insufficient funding for road and bridge maintenance
- Traffic safety lagging behind
- Improved transit access needed to education, employment, health care
- Simplification of federal and state funding process for tribal transportation projects



# Key Findings of WTP 2035

## Accountability and Transparency

- Improved efficiency in spending
- Greater accountability for results
- Data-driven processes
- Implementation follow-up and monitoring
- Expand MAP-21 performance reporting to state- and locally-funded projects



# Summary of WTP 2035 Strategies and Recommended Actions



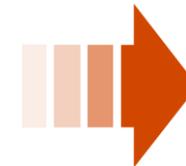
Economic Vitality

Preservation



Safety

Mobility



Environment

Stewardship



# Economic Vitality & Freight Mobility

- Improve Washington's economic competitiveness
- Strengthen connectivity of people and communities
- Support the coordinated, connected and efficient movement of freight and goods
- Invest in the state's aviation system
- Ensure the ability to build and maintain the performance of essential public facilities



# WTP 2035 Strategies

## Preservation

- Focus on preserving the existing state and local transportation network
- Explore new funding strategies for public transportation
- Invest in preservation of ferry vessels and terminal infrastructure
- Near-term need for large investment in seismic retrofit



# WTP 2035 Strategies

## Safety

- Foster implementation of comprehensive safety strategies across all jurisdictions and transportation modes
- Continue to plan and engineer projects for safety
- Encourage inter-agency collaboration and cooperation in emergency preparedness and response



# WTP 2035 Strategies

## Mobility

- Support mobility options to help communities meet the public's travel need
- Improve connectivity to facilitate travel across modes and communities
- Accommodate changing demographics, preferences and technologies
- Support transportation for special needs populations



# WTP 2035 Strategies

# Environment

- Transportation investments should support healthy communities
- Manage the transportation system to foster environmental sustainability
- Accelerate clean transportation options



# WTP 2035 Strategies

## Stewardship

- Continue to implement performance measures to ensure accountability
- Leverage available technologies to maximize efficiency in the transportation system
- Develop sustainable funding strategies
- Review regulations that require the same standard and performance level for all transportation investments
- Support inclusive, equitable planning
- Address tribal transportation needs

# Transportation Funding

- WTP outreach and Voice of Washington surveys point out need to improve financial health of the transportation system
- Improve efficiency in the delivery and operation of transportation
  - improved accountability for expenditures
  - performance management
  - practical design methods
  - technology-based efficiency gains
- Derive the maximum possible benefit from existing funding
- Consider range of options for additional revenue and use finance techniques to leverage funds and accelerate delivery



# Transportation Commission Discussion



## WTP2035

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# Content of WTP 2035

- Executive Summary (4 pp)
  - Critical Messages for Decision Makers
  - Key Findings
  - Delivering Results: Efficiencies and Revenue Enhancement
- Main document contents and organization:
  - Introduction: Findings and Trends
  - Strategies and Recommended Actions
  - Travel Trends and System Needs
  - Funding Trends and Options
- Appendixes
  - Participation
  - Outreach Journal