

Washington's Statewide Public Transportation Plan

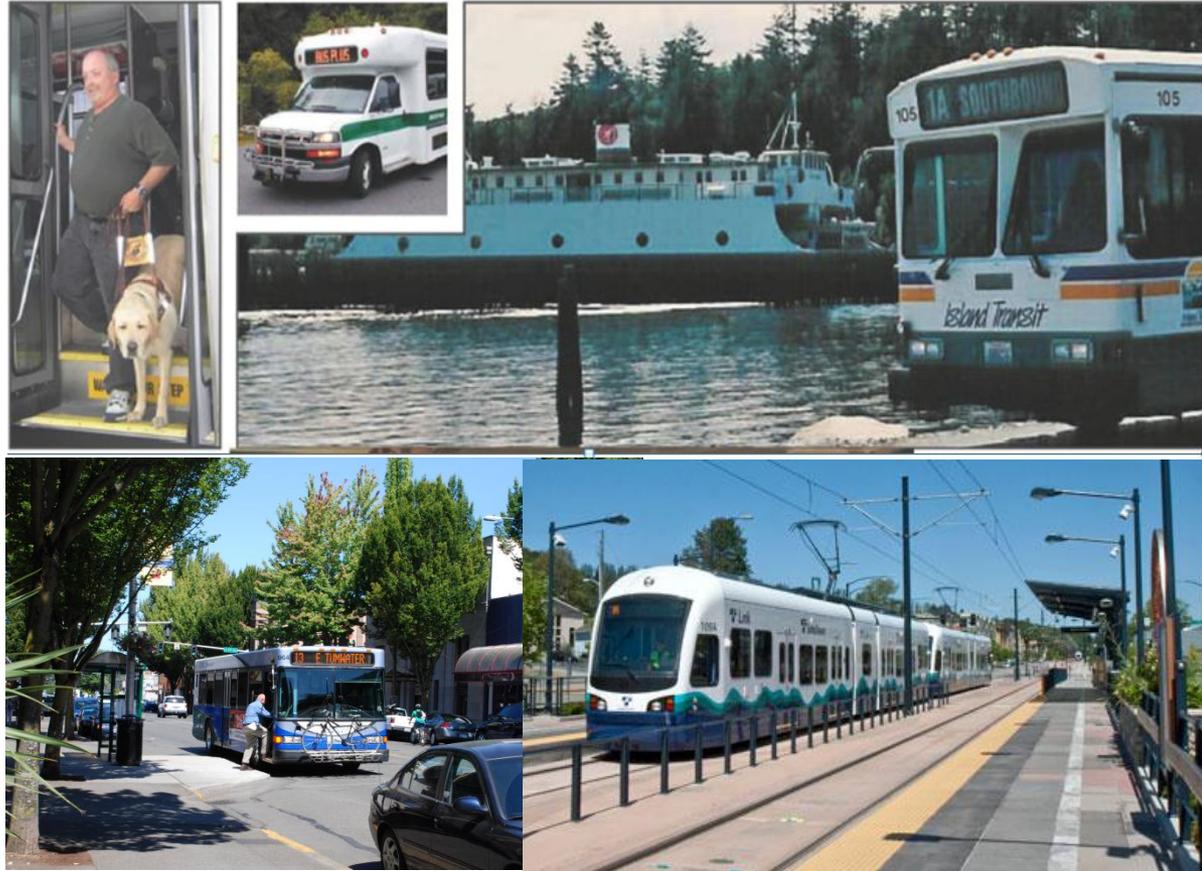
Cathy Silins

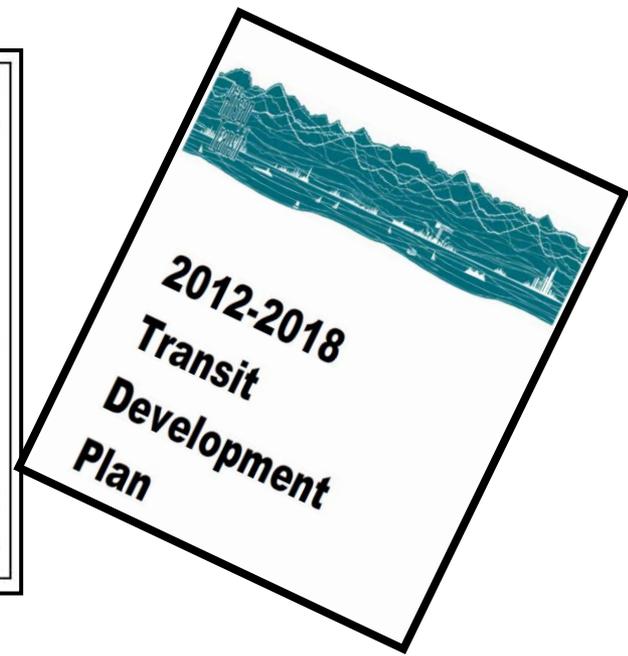
Public Transportation Division, Deputy Director

Washington State Transportation Commission
March 19, 2014

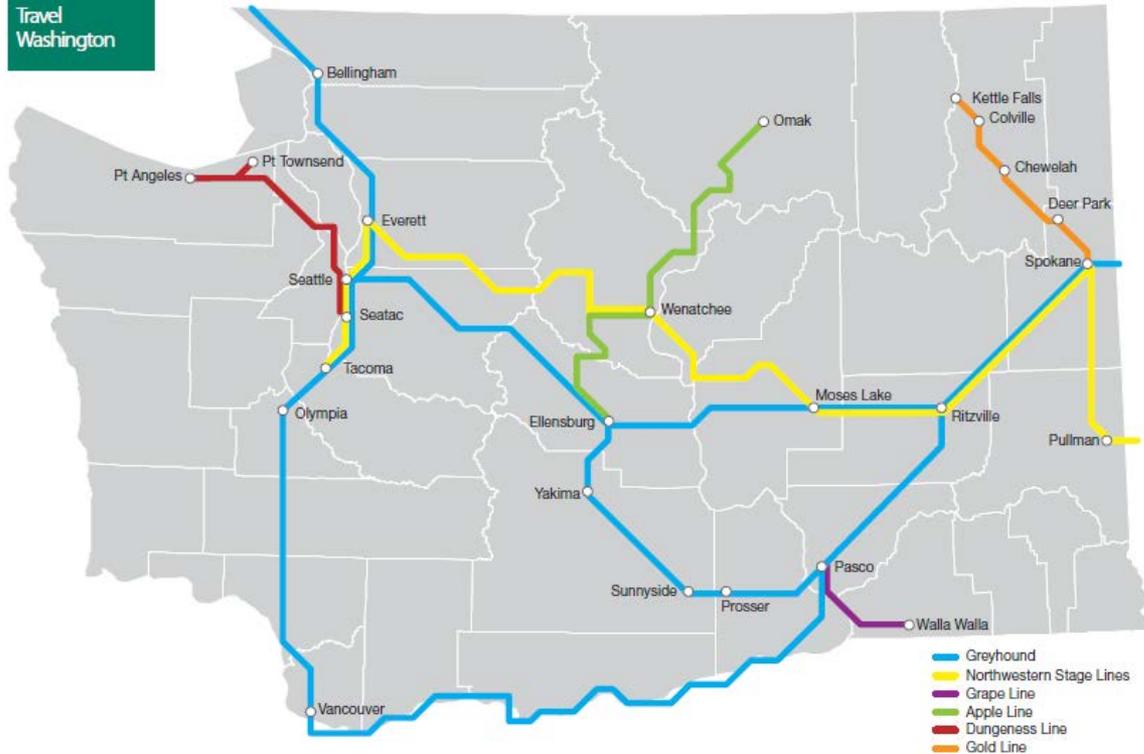
Public Transportation Planning

Ownership and operation of Washington's transportation system is spread among federal, state, and local government agencies, regional transit agencies, port districts, and the private sector.

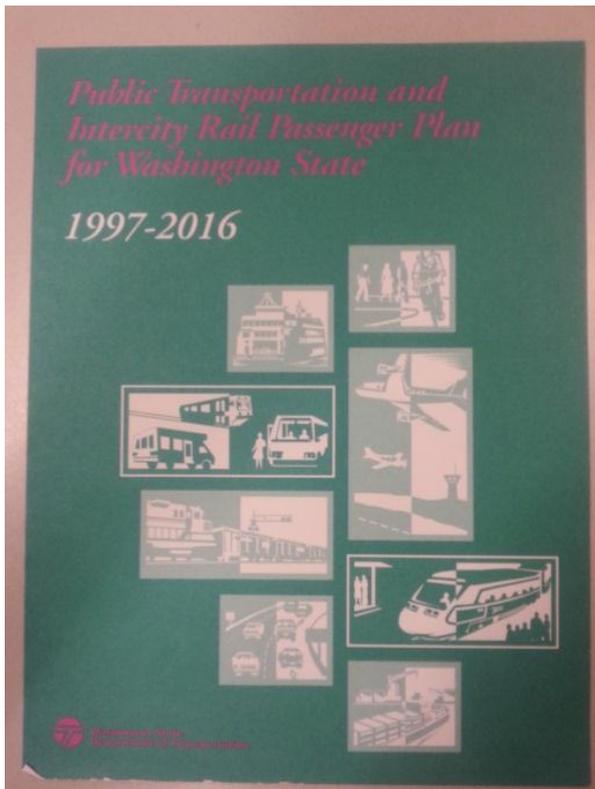




Transportation planning authority is shared on the local, regional, and state levels, and is best accomplished if it's a comprehensive and coordinated effort.



Certain transportation issues and facilities cross local and regional boundaries and are vital to the statewide economy and the cross-state mobility of people and goods.



December 1996, a document titled “Public Transportation and Intercity Rail Passenger Plan for Washington State 1997-2016” was published.

This was the first (and only) public transportation modal plan that was prepared in response to the Legislative direction of RCW 47.06.110.

The Public Transportation Division began looking at the transportation system as

- Integrated
- Multimodal
- Sustainable

We began identifying opportunities to integrate public transportation and transportation demand management into our department's day-to-day activities.

WSDOT Public Transportation Division's Efforts for a Statewide Plan

In June 2013 we engaged our Planning Partners in developing a framework for a new Statewide Plan

Why now?

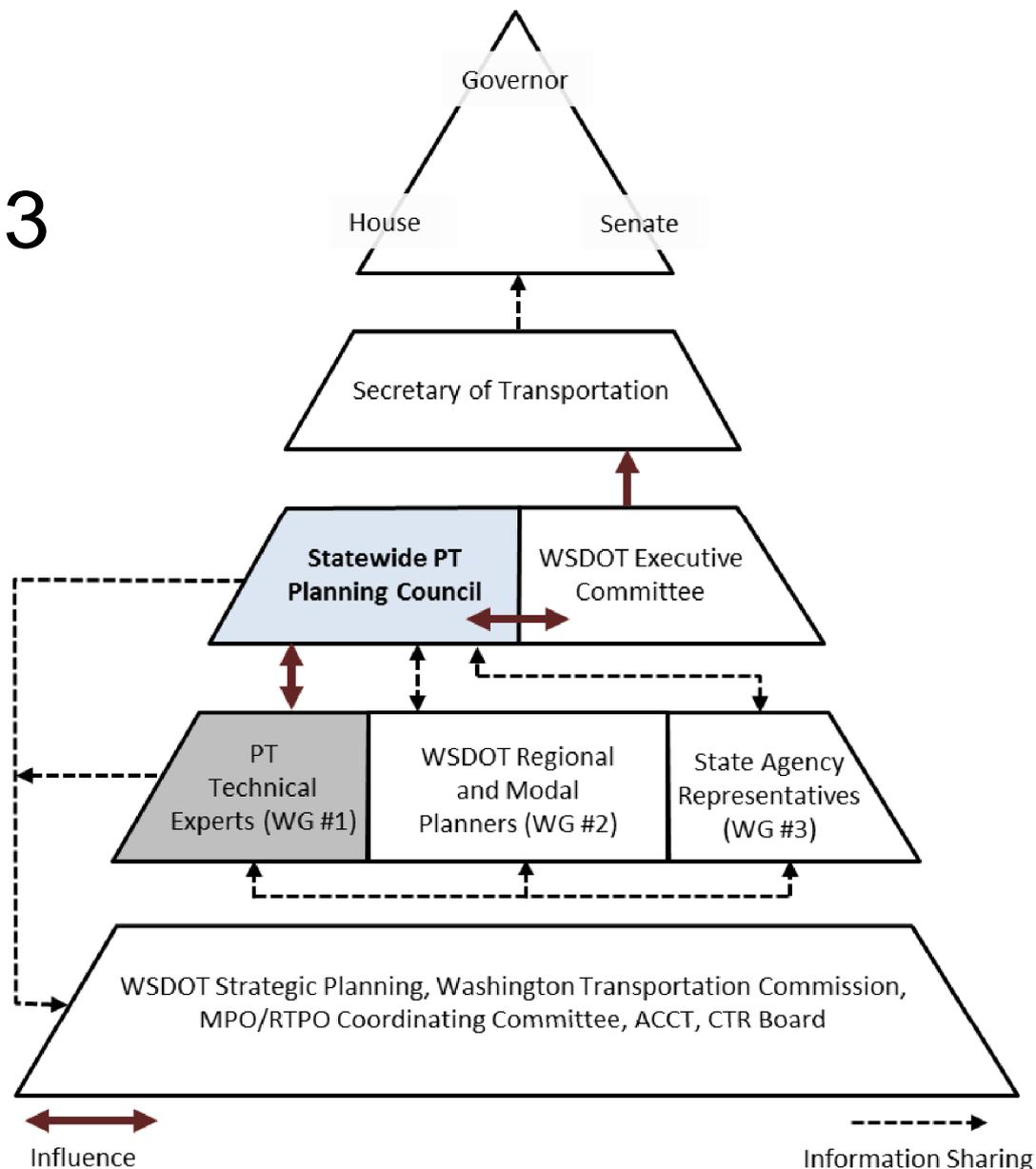
- Public Transportation is a critical component in making our transportation system efficient and effective
- There is a new opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in planning within the Department
- Our statewide planning efforts will allow public transportation agencies and partners to assist in defining the state interest and state role

What are our objectives?

- Define the state's interest and a state vision in public transportation with quantifiable objectives
- Establish goals for public transportation and the roles of federal, state, regional, and local entities in achieving those goals
- Create and support mechanisms for coordinating multimodal planning and public transportation services and modes
- Identify a set of recommendations tied to state goals that are important to the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation system and that can be addressed by public transportation and demand management options

Phase 1: June 2013 – December 2013

Develop framework
and common
understanding
with partners



8-Step Decision Model

- Goal
- Opportunities/Issues
- Development/Design
- Implementation
- Measurement
- Reporting Results
- Goal Assessment
- Opportunities/Issues



We discovered that we were very good at developing and implementing!

8-Step Decision Model - SPTP

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First Issue: What is Public Transportation?

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?



Transportation Commission adopted a definition of public transportation in 1992

“..a publicly supported system of services and facilities that provides an alternative to the single-occupant automobile and enhances mobility, environmental quality and appropriate land use patterns. Such systems may include any combination of services, facilities and the necessary infrastructure related to transit, paratransit, ridesharing, intercity bus, airport shuttles, passenger rail, ferries, pupil transportation, high capacity transit, transportation demand management, people movers, bicycles and pedestrian programs.”

In 2013, we asked if that definition is still valid as we began our statewide plan for **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

It is....

Open to public
For profit/non profit
In the public interest
Has value for public

It is not....

Based on fares or funds
Single Occupant Vehicle
Mode specific

It may be....

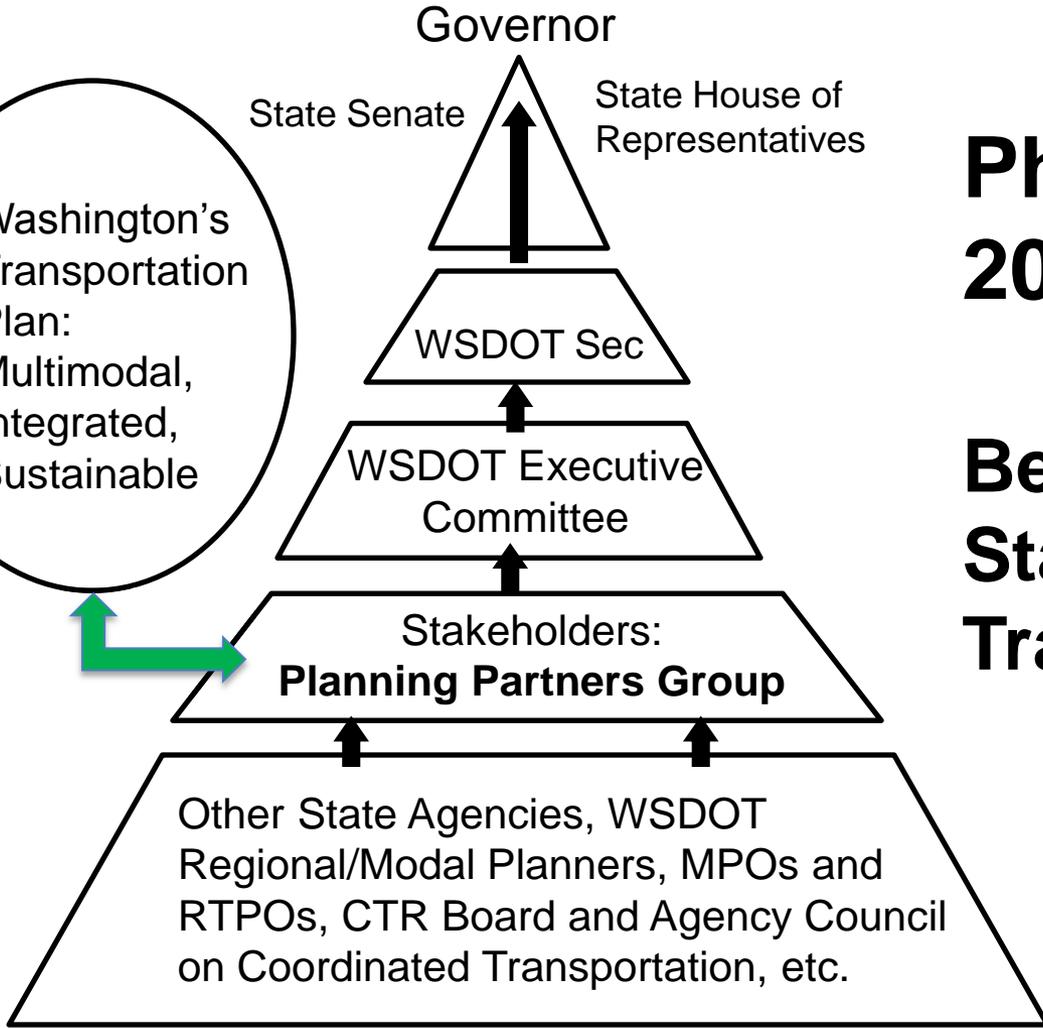
Bike share
Taxi
ZIP car/SOV for 1st and last mile



What modes are public transportation?

- Public Transit Bus
- Commuter Bus
- Tribal Transit Bus
- Charter bus
- Commuter rail
- Passenger Only Ferries
- Heavy commuter rail
- Light rail
- Monorail
- Vanpool
- Private vanpool
- Carpool services
- Dial-a-ride, Demand Response
- Intercity bus
- Airport shuttle
- University Bus/Corporate Bus
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- What else?

Washington's
Transportation
Plan:
Multimodal,
Integrated,
Sustainable



Public Outreach – Public Input (Title VI)

**Phase 2: Jan
2014 – June 2014**

**Begin to Draft the
Statewide Public
Transportation Plan**

Public Involvement

- Our Planning Partners have endorsed a Communication Plan that has been developed with assistance from transit agencies
- Focus on piggy-backing on existing meetings and events
- Focus on partnerships
- Our public involvement efforts will be consistent with WSDOT's policy and processes

State Role in Public Transportation

#1 To create and participate in value-added partnerships for an effective and efficient statewide transportation system for the 21st century.

To enable local providers to be the partners the state needs to ensure the statewide transportation system functions as efficiently and effectively as possible.

10 Examples

1. Integrating public transportation programs and projects into corridor, regional and statewide plans
2. Developing policies and promoting programs that encourage the use of all public transportation modes

3. Removing operational, communication, and other barriers within the transportation system to allow public transportation services to operate safely
4. Recommending strategies for coordinating public transportation with other transportation services and modes

5. Administering state and federal resources assuring compliance with all applicable requirements, and providing technical assistance to allow public transportation organizations to thrive

6. Improving access and mobility by
 - increasing transit service in rural areas under- or un-served by public transportation,
 - encouraging transit-oriented development
 - adding technology to enable people and goods to move safely and swiftly to their destinations

7. Assessing the adequacy of local, regional and state funding tools and sources, and developing new funding strategies to address statewide needs and concerns

8. Aligning reporting and data collection to provide a comprehensive and useful picture of public transportation

9. Working with partners to ensure consistent measures to assess public transportation system performance

10. Providing leadership on sustainability, climate change and public health as they relate to public transportation and transportation demand management in particular

Questions?

For more information on the
Statewide Public Transportation Plan,
please contact:

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