

# WTP 2040 and Beyond

Strategic Statewide Policy Plan Update

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS, ACTIONS, AND NEXT STEPS



Washington State  
Transportation Commission

WA State Transportation Commission  
October 17, 2018

Thera Black  
SCJ Alliance



# Commission Overview

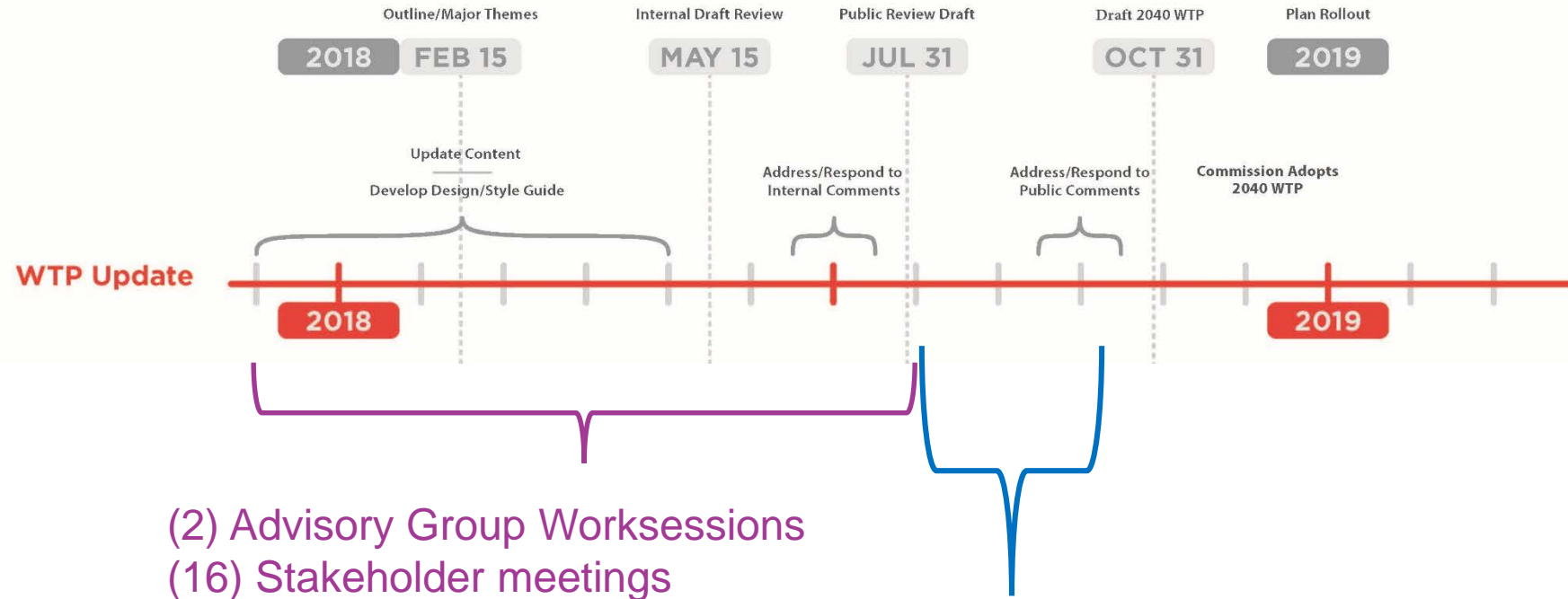
- ❖ Process Recap
- ❖ Goals and Draft Recommendations
- ❖ Comments, Insights, and Actions
- ❖ Homestretch



# Process Recap



# Stakeholder Engagement



- (2) Advisory Group Worksessions
- (16) Stakeholder meetings
- (7) Leadership Team meetings
- (3) Steering Committee meetings
- (3) Commission briefings

Collaboration on Internal Working Draft document

- (6) Open Houses
- (6) Stakeholder meetings
- (1) Steering Committee meeting
- (1) Leadership Team meeting
- (1) Advisory Group wrap-up (10.31)
- Project website & email address



# Brief Engagement Recap

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- **Aug 1 – Oct 5 (latest comment)**
- **(6) open houses and (6) formal briefings**
- **Project website and project email address**
  
- **> 240 individual comments**
- **(12) organizations and (16) members of the public**



# Advisory Group Support

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- (3) Transportation Commissioners (Rural east, Urban west, Islands)
- Eastside MPO (Spokane)
- Central MPO (Chelan-Douglas)
- Westside MPO (Skagit)
- NW MPO (Whatcom)
- SW MPO (Vancouver/SW)
- Rural RTPO (Palouse)
- Puget Sound Region MPO (PSRC)
- Tribal Liaison (Muckleshoot)
- Association of WA Cities
- WA Association of Counties
- WA Public Ports Association
- WA State Transit Association
- Transportation Improvement Board
- APA/Planning Assoc. of Washington
- Futurewise
- Transportation Choices Coalition
- Association of WA Business
- Washington Roundtable
- WA State Farm Bureau
- WSDOT Multimodal Planning
- WA Dept. of Ecology
- WA State Dept. of Health



# Goals and Draft Recommendations

Big ideas to advance statewide priority goals.

- **Economic Vitality**
- **Preservation**
- **Safety**
- **Mobility**
- **Health and the Environment**
- **Stewardship**



# Economic Vitality Goal

**Promote and develop transportation systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and goods to ensure a prosperous economy.**

## Why is this important?

Economic vitality underpins our ability to accomplish other statewide goals. A robust economy requires efficient, reliable travel options and compatible land use patterns. This is as true in rural Washington as it is in our major metropolitan areas, and everywhere in between.





# Draft Recommendations to Support Economic Vitality

1. Increase the economic resilience of border-to-border freight corridors and the capacity of these corridors to recover rapidly after major system disruptions.
2. Ensure local land use policies prevent encroachment on Essential Public Facilities that support freight mobility.
3. Ensure Washington's freight transportation system is responsive to the technologies and market forces that are reshaping freight mobility, supply chain logistics, and commercial vehicle operations, and can support the state's economic vitality under a range of plausible future conditions.
4. Pursue innovative strategies to maintain the economic viability of rural regional, community, local, and general use airports.
5. Support the state's economic competitiveness in international trade by helping to ensure Washington's ports are "big ship ready" —in the water and on land.



# Preservation Goal

**Maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services.**

## Why is this important?

Preservation is essential. If we can't afford to take care of what we've already built, we can't afford to rebuild it or expand it. Preservation is the foundation of good asset management for every single mode of travel, not just pavement and bridges. Transit systems, ferries and terminals, traffic management systems, marine terminals, airports, railways, drainage culverts and stormwater systems, and more—protecting our existing investments is the single most cost-effective thing we can do to ensure our transportation system continues to meet our needs today and in the future.



# Draft Recommendations to Support Preservation

1. Prohibit the legal use of studded snow tires on public roadways within three years.
2. Ensure any necessary decommissioning of infrastructure or services due to inadequate preservation or operations funding is done in a way that minimizes disruptions for the traveling public.
3. Reduce unnecessary permitting delays, especially on preservation and maintenance projects where the potential for environmental impact is minimal.



# Safety Goal

**Provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system.**

## Why is this important?

No fatality is acceptable. We design, build, operate, and manage our transportation system with safety in mind – safety for all users of that system as well as for those who operate and work on the system. Target Zero provides a good foundation but it's up to each of us to make the goal of zero fatalities or serious injuries a reality.



# Draft Recommendations to Support Safety

1. Expand crash data reporting to provide an understanding of racial disparities in traffic safety in order to better target effective countermeasures.
2. Ensure plans are in place to support the emergency evacuation needs of Washington's most vulnerable residents.
3. Ensure the network of designated "lifeline facilities" necessary for rapid response and sustained recovery after a major seismic event considers the full range of modal resources available in Central and Eastern Washington.



# Mobility Goal

**Improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington state, including congestion relief and improved freight mobility.**

## Why is this important?

Predictable, reliable travel choices underpin a strong economy and healthy communities. The biggest challenge to this is chronic congestion, compounded by incomplete or inefficient multimodal systems. Strategic system expansion coordinated with transportation-efficient land use policies, effective system management and operations, multimodal integration, practical solutions, demand management, and emerging technologies work together to deliver maximum mobility from the statewide transportation system.



# Draft Recommendations to Support Mobility

1. Explore whether concurrency can be applied to Highways of Statewide Significance in a fair and practical manner to support coordinated transportation/land use decision-making envisioned by GMA.
2. Promote development of a seamless, statewide transit fare card with interoperability between public transit and ferry systems across the state.
3. Ensure management of transportation system operations is a front-line strategy for highway and roadway system improvements, ranging from passive operations strategies in less congested corridors to more active strategies for managing demand and operations in constrained urban corridors.
4. Adequately plan for and provide first- and last-mile access as a part of regional and statewide mobility strategies to support transit and freight transport.
5. Establish a Smart Mobility Center to ensure the successful introduction and integration of 21st century technology and innovation in Washington state.



# Health and the Environment Goal

Enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment.

## Why is this important?

Transportation directly impacts the environment. Often this results in negative impacts, but not always. Environmentally responsible infrastructure design and transportation investments minimize the impacts of transportation on the natural and built environment and reduce resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation investments can also improve community health, mobility independence, and social equity for generations to come.





# Draft Recommendations to Support Health and the Environment

1. Ensure those involved in the siting of schools and other public facilities explicitly include transit, walk, and bike access in their decision-making process.
2. Explore ways for transit and state agencies to collaborate more effectively with land developers to create mixed-use centers in the vicinity of multimodal transportation hubs.
3. Provide guidance to cities, counties, and transit agencies on various business models that can enable them to plan for and stimulate an expansion of electric vehicle charging stations across Washington.
4. Incentivize the use of clean technology in the freight sector.



# Stewardship Goal

**Continuously improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.**

## Why is this important?

There never has been enough money to do everything we want and need to do with our transportation system. That is unlikely to change. As stewards of the public's finite resources, we must make difficult near-term decisions, manage our growth, and invest strategically with the long view in mind so everyone can get the most benefit from our transportation system today and in the future.



# Draft Recommendations to Support Stewardship

1. Catalogue the various transportation performance measures currently monitored by local, regional, and state agencies to determine what gaps, if any, exist in monitoring system performance.
2. Establish person-throughput and freight-throughput objectives to evaluate level of service on highways of statewide significance.
3. Provide additional resources for RTPOs and MPOs to support local-regional-state collaboration and coordination.
4. Support efforts to improve consistency of statewide forecast inputs used in MPO and RTPO models.
5. Develop a Transportation Equity Analysis toolkit for use in evaluating the benefits and impacts of transportation policies and investments on historically marginalized populations in Washington.



# Comments, Insights, and Actions



# Cross-Cutting Topics

- Title

- Resiliency

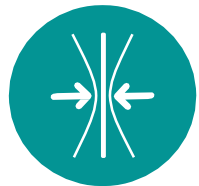
- Resiliency



sectors and regions



**Technology and Innovation**



**System Resiliency**



**Paying for Transportation**



# Tough Topics

- Localized issues with statewide implications
- Consequences of inaction are unacceptable
- No easy solutions, implementation will take years

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- Facilitating Trade and Travel Across the Columbia River
  - Limitations on SeaTac Airport Capacity

➤ **Expanding Metro's Public Transportation System**

- Rebuilding and Reinforcing the Puget Sound Ferry System



# Thumbs Up

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- ✓ **Introduction of Equity as a transportation concern**
- ✓ **Inclusive approach towards Regional Perspectives**
- ✓ **Treatment of several topics, especially:**
  - **Transportation-Land Use Connection**
  - **System Resilience**
  - **Practical Solutions**
  - **Health and the Environment**
- ✓ **Readability and graphic quality**
- ✓ **Incorporating Advisory Group feedback**



# More Emphasis Needed

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- **More funding for preservation and maintenance**
- **Flexible funding for multimodal and emerging needs**
- **Potential for negative societal implications of technology**
- **Economic importance of US-Canada border crossings**
- **Preserve economic viability of small rural airports**
- **Role of small airports in supporting disaster response**
- **Role of Marine Highway System in critical freight network**
- **Importance of education and enforcement to improve safety**
- **Importance of park-and-ride facilities in a multimodal system**





# Right Ideas but Rework

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- **Identify some federal funding alternatives for regional projects**
- **Concurrency, revisited**

*Plus, lots of good suggestions to correct typos and grammar, improve clarity, provide more context, and enhance readability.*



# Other Notes

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- **No new recommendations introduced in final draft**
- **Recommendations will be prioritized by near-term actions versus longer-term actions**
- **Will include endorsement from the Steering Committee**
- **Final Advisory Group meeting on October 31**



# Homestretch

- **Mid-November: Commission receives final draft. Commission comments by early December.**
- **December 12<sup>th</sup>: Commission adopts *WTP 2040 and Beyond***
- **January 2019: Commission presents new plan to Legislature**
- **January 2019: *WTP 2040 and Beyond* website rollout**



# What does success look like?

WTP clearly identifies critical uncertainties affecting transportation.

Manage stakeholder expectations - and then meet them.

People better understand what the WTP is and why it matters.

Put big ideas out there and don't just stay in a 'safe zone.'

Maintain the human element - remember this is about people.

It is recognized as an honest process.

Stakeholders feel heard, and that it was worth their time to participate.

Legislators and stakeholders better appreciate the value and purpose of planning for the future.

Stakeholders participate in the rollout.

MPOs and RTPOs think the plan and process were successful.

WSDOT thinks the plan is good.

# WTP 2040 and Beyond



Washington State  
Transportation Commission

