Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Washington Transportation Commission
April 26, 2017
Regional Issues

Emphasis Areas
- Roadways
- Freight Mobility
- Alternative Transportation
- Public Transportation
The Region

- The five counties include – 6,641 square miles (4,250,240 acres)

- Diverse needs southern coast, Columbia River frontage, Mt St. Helens and deep into the Cascades in eastern Lewis County

- I-5 Corridor to very rural communities

- Proximity to Portland/Vancouver and Puget Sound regions
Growth and Development

- Regional population of 279,242

- Population growth from 2000 to 2010 –
  State 14.1 %
  Region 8.68% (.868 per year)

- Since then, region has grown by 1.34 %
  (.268% per year through 2015)

- Growth appears to be quickening
Based on Census Data the Region

- Continues to lose close-in family-wage jobs;
- Struggles with ramifications of an aging population
- Is experiencing loss of family households and the decline of two-income households
- Regional unemployment 8.6% versus 5.6% statewide
Trends Impacting Transportation

- High dependency on automobile
- Many workers traveling farther from home for work
- Regional travel times to work exceed state average
- In the news – ilani Casino
Commuting Patterns

Employed in SWRTPO: 29,274
Live Outside: 58,113
Employed and Live Inside SWRTPO: 48,400
Live in SWRTPO Employed Outside: 8,736
Trends

- Three deep water Ports in region are experiencing strong interest
  - Cowlitz County has over $4 Billion in pending projects at Ports
  - Grays Harbor Port negotiating deals that would significantly increase rail traffic
- Inland I–5 Ports are seeing strong interest
- Still dependent upon Natural Resources and Mining
- Strong in Manufacturing
Major Activities and Challenges

- Working on Regional Transportation Plan
  Updating Long–Range Strategies

- Freight Emphasis area
  - Stakeholders Group
  - New Partnerships
Freight Priorities

- Cowlitz County
  - Exit 22 improvements
  - Exit 30 reconfiguration
  - Exit 32 interchange / access
  - SR 432 corridor enhancements

- Grays Harbor County
  - East Aberdeen Mobility Project
  - US 101 Truck Route EIS
  - Complete Seismic Upgrades to Chehalis River Bridge and Heron St Bridge
Freight Priorities (Continued)

- **Lewis County**
  - I-5 Add Lanes
  - County Roads – wider shoulders
  - Exit 82 access improvements

- **Pacific County**
  - SR 6 straighten Pluvius bridge
  - HWY 101 road conditions – Sliding and Bike Ped needs
  - SR 103 – Seaview to Oysterville

- **Wahkiakum County**
  - SR 4 safety issues – slides and widening
Recent Activities

- Implemented a General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) project
- Completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessment
- Held quarterly meetings with public transportation stakeholders
- Supported “Complete Streets” work
- Updated traffic demand model for the MPO
- Promoted electric vehicle charging stations
Thank You