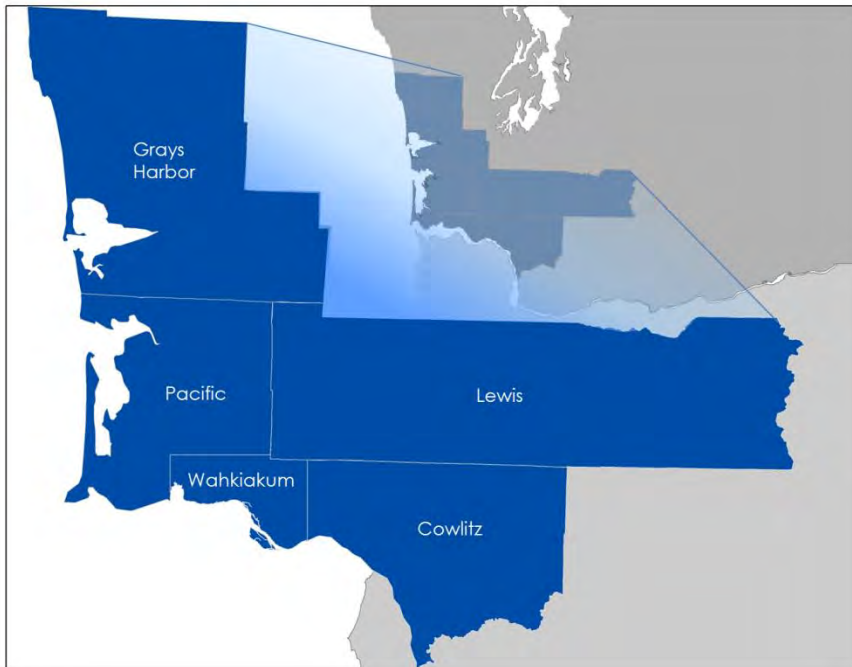


# Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Washington Transportation  
Commission  
April 26, 2017

**CWCOG**  
COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

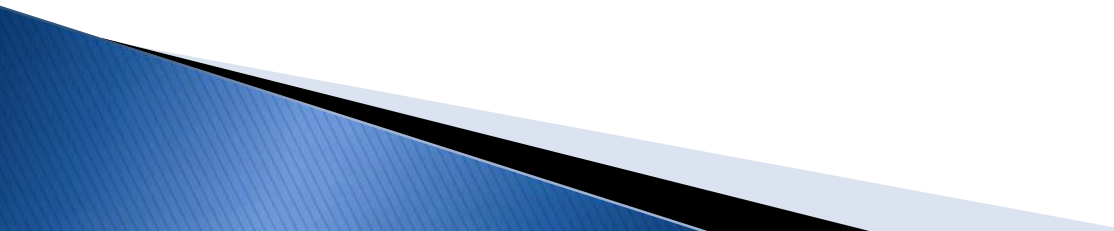
# Regional Issues



## 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

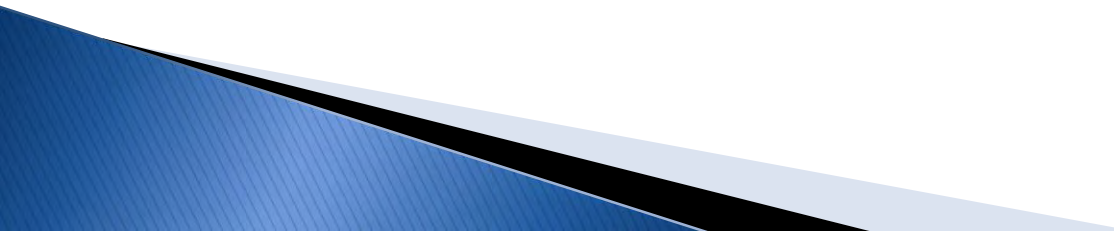
- ▶ Regional population of 279,242
- ▶ Population growth from 2000 to 2010 –  
State 14.1 %  
Region 8.68% (.868 per year)
- ▶ Since then, region has grown by 1.34 %  
(.268% per year through 2015)
- ▶ Growth appears to be quickening

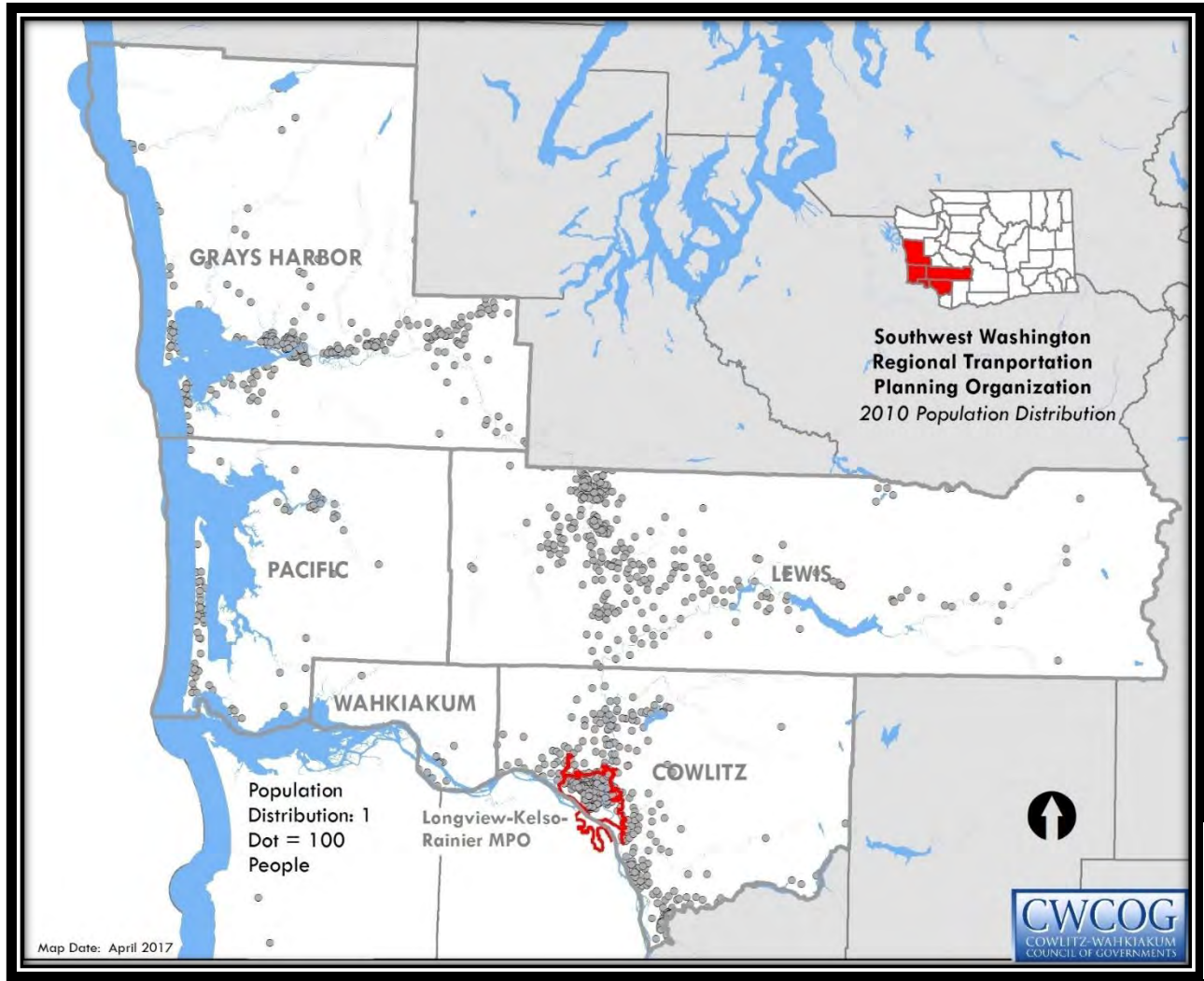
# Trends

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% verses 5.6% statewide

# Trends Impacting Transportation

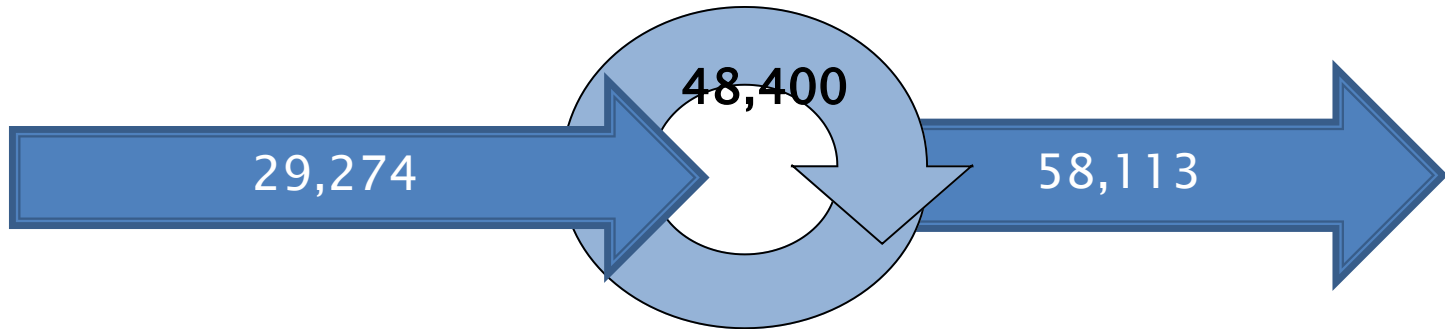
- ▶ High dependency on automobile
  - ▶ Many workers traveling farther from home for work
  - ▶ Regional travel times to work exceed state average
  - ▶ In the news – ilani Casino
- 



**SWRTPO**  
**Population**  
**Distribution**

Source: CWCOG

# Commuting Patterns



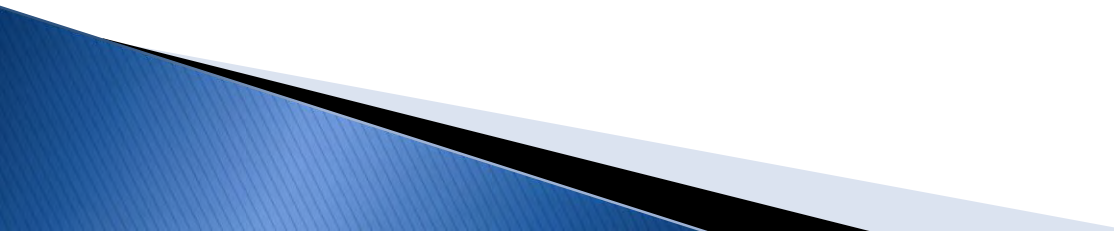
Employed in SWRTPO  
Live Outside

Employed and Live  
Inside SWRTPO

Live in SWRTPO  
Employed Outside



# 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

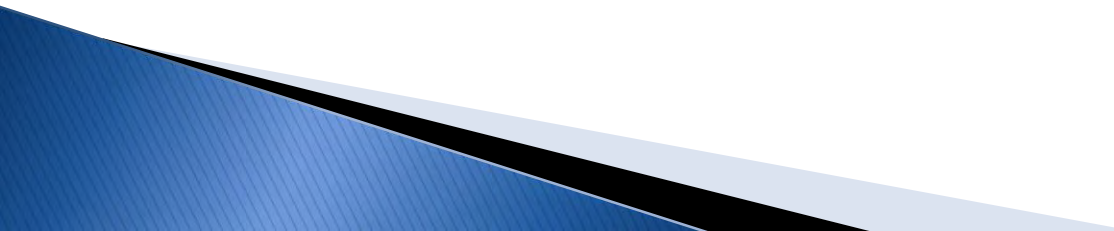
## ▶ Pacific County

- 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
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Thank You