

Washington State Public Transportation Plan 2015-2035

Integrated and Performance Driven

THE VISION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

All transportation partners in Washington work together to provide a system of diverse, integrated public transportation options. People throughout the state use these options to make transportation choices that enable families, communities, the economy and their environment to thrive.

Washington's seven million residents and half million businesses are changing the ways to communicate, connect, travel and transact, and use public transportation. With a projected population growth of more than 25 percent during the next 20 years, the way we plan and manage public transportation must also change. The draft Washington State Public Transportation Plan offers a blueprint to better integrate all modes of transportation to meet the needs of Washington's people.

Washington's transportation future, which includes buses, light rail, bikes, pedestrians, etc., will be defined by new kinds of partnerships between communities, government agencies and service providers. This draft plan, developed by the Washington State Department of Transportation along with transportation agencies and service providers throughout Washington, takes the first step in defining these new partnerships.

Four Key Public Transportation Challenges in Washington State

- » **DEMAND:** The demand for access to jobs, schools, services and community is growing, but public transportation providers' ability to meet this demand has been constrained
- » **CONGESTION:** Congestion is hurting our economy and quality of life, and we must find ways to move more people with even greater efficiency
- » **FUNDING:** Traditional methods for funding mobility are increasingly unsustainable
- » **DISRUPTIVE CHANGE:** Emerging technologies and business models are challenging organizations to redefine how people communicate, work, travel and transact



► Goal 4: Customer Experience

Enhance people's transportation experience by providing public transportation that is safe, seamless, pleasant, convenient, reliable, relevant and understandable

Success is achieved only when customers' needs are met, whether they are using modes such as trails, ferries, buses, or HOV lanes.

How can we get there?

- » Deploy best practices in safety and security, taking into account issues of equity
- » Foster additional collaboration among Washington state transportation providers to identify, implement and sustain solutions that improve the public transportation experience
- » Increase consideration and use of multimodal options by piloting systems and programs to help the public better understand, consider and use various modal options – then support widespread adoption of proven approaches
- » Develop tools and processes to promote innovation that improves the customer experience

► Goal 5: Transportation System Guardianship

Protect, conserve and manage Washington's transportation assets in a manner that maximizes and sustains their value to the public, public transportation and the statewide transportation system

We all must be guardians of Washington state's transportation system. It is the economic lifeblood of Washington and its urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities--moving people and goods by various modes across many jurisdictions. Guardianship of the transportation system is a commitment to continuously improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation system.

How can we get there?

- » Manage, preserve, maintain and operate the transportation network as a complete multimodal system
- » Develop a dashboard that monitors Washington's transportation system around multimodal performance indicators, building toward a more integrated, connected multimodal system
- » Test pilot service concepts to increase vehicle occupancy and use of public transportation, including transit, active transportation, ride-hailing, telework and more

We want your input!

WSDOT and public transportation partners are seeking input on the Washington State Public Transportation Plan through November.

Log on to WATransPlan.com to get further information about the plan and meetings that may be occurring near you.

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What are the major themes of the draft Washington State Public Transportation Plan?

- » Broadly defines public transportation as any form of public or private transportation that is accessible and available to the public and does not involve a single person in a motorized vehicle
- » Recognizes that a connected, coordinated transportation system that serves all people is instrumental to thriving communities
- » Acknowledges that widespread innovation and continuous improvement are key to meeting ever-changing transportation needs
- » Advocates for ongoing emphasis on delivering positive customer experiences
- » Provides a framework for a more performance focused and integrated approach to transportation
- » Advances the state's interest and role as a public transportation provider

Proposed Statewide Public Transportation Goals

► Goal 1: Thriving Communities

Cultivate thriving communities by supporting health, equity, prosperous economies, energy conservation and a sustainable environment through transportation

Public transportation goes beyond simply transporting people from one place to another; it leads to greater human connection, productivity, health and quality of life.

How can we get there?

- » Research, test and share tools and best practices to advance sustainable and equitable transportation planning and investment
- » Quantify and communicate the economic, environmental, health and community benefits of public transportation to Washington state
- » Test ways to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of transportation strategies that support people throughout their lives
- » Align transportation investments to support local comprehensive plans and community priorities, such as improving first and last mile pedestrian connections or connections between buses and ferries

► Goal 2: Access

Provide and sustain a transportation system that allows people of all ages, ability and geographic locations to access jobs, goods, services, schools and community activities

Washington's transportation system does not fully meet the current access needs of people throughout the state. Rapid growth, competing interests and an inability to fully integrate and fund plans at all levels have left gaps between the supply of public transportation and the demand for service.

How can we get there?

- » Allow for system gaps and deficits to be more quickly identified and addressed - for example, during routine congestion, incidents, emergencies and disaster response
- » Remove barriers, such as conditions on special needs funding and other policy restrictions, and incentivize collaboration and integration between service providers
- » Work with a broad range of partners to plan and invest based on system-wide needs, priorities and performance

► Goal 3: Adaptive Transportation Capacity

Use new technologies and partnerships to make better use of existing transportation assets and meet changing customer needs

The concept of "adaptive transportation capacity" represents a range of strategies that help Washington's transportation system become more efficient, flexible, adaptable and customer oriented despite changes in our communities.

How can we get there?

- » Use technology to improve access for people with special transportation needs and maximize efficiency and effectiveness, e.g., develop systems to help providers better coordinate service delivery
- » Develop and implement integrated, multimodal system improvements that move more people in fewer vehicles and at least cost
- » Foster innovation that responds to emerging market opportunities and other system changes through public-private partnerships and agency coordination

