NORTH SOUND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CHALLENGES FOR 2020
INTRODUCTION TO NSTA

NSTA STRIVES TO IMPROVE WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO TRAVEL IN THE REGION

PARTICIPANTS

- **Jurisdictions** (cities, counties, tribes, ports, utility districts)
- **Transportation agencies** (state, RTPOs, transit agencies, ferry committees)
- **Healthcare organizations** (ACHs, fire and emergency services, health departments, senior and special needs providers)
- **Private sector** (Chambers of commerce, private transportation services, economic development councils, railways, marine and boat builders, tourism associations)
- **NGOs and non-profit organizations** (Bicycle and trail organizations, veteran’s affairs, universities, rail advocacy groups)

Coalition of citizens, elected officials, and agency staff from Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Snohomish counties.
HEALTH & TRANSPORTATION

TOP FIVE STRATEGIES

1. 2-1-1 call center expansion to include links to transit agencies/other transportation providers

2. Universal broadband for entire five county region

3. Study of on-demand transit feasibility for the five counties

4. Study of feasibility and effectiveness of flyer stops on I-5

5. Implement and/or expand mobile medical health clinics

TIMELINE:
- SEPT. 8, 2017: Preliminary Workshop
- SEPT. 14, 2018: Secondary Workshop
- MAR. 8, 2019: Review of 2 Projects
FERRIES

OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze existing and needed ferry connections in the region.

2. Increase passenger ferry ridership.

3. Support alternative services such as TNCs to improve last-mile access for those without vehicles.

4. Improve connections between ferries, transit, and rail.

5. Serve forecasted ridership growth in a sustainable manner.

TIMELINE:

- APR. 13, 2018
  Preliminary Workshop

- OCT. 18, 2019
  Ferries & Transit Conference
WE NEED TO SUPPORT INTERCOUNTY TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY NOW MORE THAN EVER

TOP 10 FEATURES OF AN IDEAL REGIONAL SERVICE

1. Highly integrated/holistic (universal branding)
2. Dedicated, sustainable funding source
3. On-time performance
4. Reliable frequency/multiple options
5. Inclusive - equitable, accessible, affordable
6. Comfortable and inviting
7. Connectivity with other modes (door to door)
8. Reduces single-occupancy vehicle trips
9. Not fossil-fuel based
10. Speedy

GOALS

1. Flyer stops on I-5
2. Increase intercounty connector frequency
3. On-demand transit
4. Coordinated fares
5. Bus meets ferry on ferry time
6. Legislation to fix cross-jurisdictional barriers

TIMELINE:
- OCT. 5, 2018
  Preliminary Workshop
- OCT. 18, 2019
  Ferries & Transit Conference
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

TOP FOUR GOALS

1. **Transportation** - safe and connected pathways
2. **Public health** - equitable access to nature and cultural sites
3. **Community vitality**
4. **Environment** - including positive climate change impacts

TIMELINE: APR. 26, 2019
Preliminary Workshop
REGIONAL RAIL PRIORITIES

1. Third round-trip Amtrak Cascades train between Seattle and Bellingham
2. Station in Blaine, WA
3. Improved intermodal connectivity between rail and other modes

22%

Of Amtrak Cascades ticket revenue comes from city pairs including Vancouver B.C.

(WSDOT Amtrak Cascades Annual Performance Report 2018)
## Value of the Effort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># MEETINGS BY TYPE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DELIVERABLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Transit &amp; Bus Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Transportation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Rail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Meetings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
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### Expenses
(Paid for by Whatcom Council of Governments)

- **2018**: $32,550
- **2019**: $33,550

### Deliverables

- **2018**: 5 reports/6 meetings
- **2019**: 6 reports/8 meetings
THE FUTURE OF NSTA 2020 AND BEYOND

HOW DO WE CONTINUE NSTA EFFORTS WITH A STRONG VISION AND MINIMAL FUNDING?

1. FUNDING
   If there is interest in following through on the ideas, research initiatives, potential for subgroup planning teams, and other actions in recent workshops, more funding must be identified.

2. STAFF TIME
   If there is interest in specific projects or objectives, staff or a consulting team would be a better option for follow-on activities given the limitations of staff time amongst NSTA stakeholder agencies.

3. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION
   In 2020/2021, it is hoped a project list can be created as a minimum deliverable.

4. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT
   We need more legislative support in the future - participation at meetings - and a deliverable list of priority projects for them to act upon.