



WASHINGTON
STATE ASSOCIATION
of **COUNTIES**

COVID-19 IMPACTS ONE YEAR LATER


PRESENTATION TO THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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County Background

- County Roadway Responsibilities
 - 39 Counties/39,000 centerline miles
 - 59% of Washington roadways
 - 45% of Washington bridges
 - 4 ferry systems



Current COVID-19 Challenges

- Workforce
- Projects
- Revenue
- Uncertainty

Workforce Challenges

- Impacts to employees and tough decisions for managers:
 - Changing guidance and mandates
 - Masking, distancing, quarantining
 - Vaccination mandates
 - Contingency planning (possible reduction in workforce)
 - Ongoing turnover and hiring (shortages of drivers and operators)
 - Complex and rushed collective bargaining
 - Prolonged stress and fatigue
 - Increased personnel issues
 - Increased anger/speeding from citizens/drivers

Construction Challenges

- Impacts to construction, maintenance, and operations:
 - Disrupted supply chains for equipment and supplies
 - Increased costs for materials resulting in change orders
 - Challenging discussions with contractors and oversight of contracts
 - Complex procurement and contracting decisions
 - Postponed or prolonged project timelines
 - All while managing other health/safety concerns unrelated to COVID (heat and wildfire smoke)

Revenue Challenges

- Impacts of unanticipated revenue fluctuations
 - Decreases in direct distribution of Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax
 - Decreased or delayed grant funding or grant cycles
 - Influx of American Rescue Plan Act funding and need for increased program capacity (water/sewer/broadband)
 - New and more complex audit requirements
 - Uncertainty about state and federal transportation/infrastructure packages

Long-term Challenges

- The Impact of uncertainty:
 - How have travel habits changed?
 - How long will these changes last, and how will they continue to impact the transportation system?
 - How will these changes continue to impact traditional sources of transportation revenue?
 - Should we/can we change how we forecast revenue and plan projects during this time of uncertainty?
 - What happens after one time funding is gone?
 - Will inflation exacerbate the existing County revenue problem?

Questions?



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