

Policy 16. Social Media Policy

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Policy & Procedure No.: **16**

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Deborah Young
Transportation Commission Chair

Social Media Policy

The Transportation Commission has a presence on various social media platforms to provide an opportunity for outreach and for sharing the Transportation Commission's work with the public. Social media, used for social networking, [refers to](#)¹ providers or services that use the internet for blogging, microblogging, photo sharing, video sharing, wikis, discussion boards and networking. Examples of social media accounts the Commission may use are Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn. These platforms act as a bridge between the public and the Transportation Commission and its staff. This policy outlines the moderation of comments on Transportation Commission social media accounts. For parameters around official, work-related use of social media and the personal use of social media not for Transportation Commission business purposes, please see the [DOT Secretary's Executive Order E 1089.1](#).²

Comment Moderation Rules

- We do not guarantee we will respond to comments or messages sent on our social media accounts. Communications made through social media platforms will in no way constitute a legal or official notice or comment to the Transportation Commission or any official or employee of the Transportation Commission for any purpose. For example:
 - A post or comment that asks that the Transportation Commission provide public records will not be considered a public records request under RCW 42.56.
 - Likewise, a post or comment related to a proposed rule or tariff will not be considered by the agency under RCW 34.05.
- The opinions expressed by those who comment on any social media platform used by the Transportation Commission are theirs alone and do not reflect the opinions of the Transportation Commission, its Commissioners or its employees.
- Civil discussions provide the best environment for constructive engagement. It's also encouraged to keep comments related to the posted topic.
- The Commission reserves the discretion to delete comments that contain any of the following:
 - The use of vulgar, obscene, threatening or harassing language.

¹

https://ethics.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/board_approved_policies/AGO%20Social%20Networking.pdf

² [WSDOT Social Media 11302018.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

- Defamatory statements, including derogatory epithets directed at another individual or group of individuals.
- Content promoting or advertising commercial services, entities, or products or other solicitations.
- Content promoting or opposing any person campaigning for election to a political office or promoting or opposing any ballot proposition under RCW 42.52.180.
- Repetitive posts from the same author on the same post, such as those that are copied and pasted.

Those with specific questions regarding Transportation Commission activity, a request for response, or other concern should contact the Transportation Commission directly by using its feedback form, <https://wstc.wa.gov/commission-feedback/>, by emailing TransC@wstc.wa.gov, or by calling 360-705-7070.

This comment policy is subject to amendment or modification at any time to ensure its continued use is consistent with its intended purpose as a limited forum.

This comment policy shall be posted on the Commission website, with a link provided to the policy on the Commission's social media accounts.