

# Washington Transportation Plan

Vision 2050: Building the Future We Want, Together



**WTP VISION 2050 – DRAFT PREVIEW**

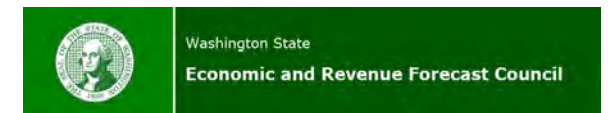
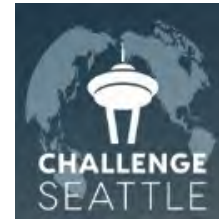
June 18, 2025  
Commission Meeting

# AGENDA

1. Overview of WTP Process
2. Recap of Public and Partner Engagement
3. Emerging Challenges & Priority Areas
4. Preview of WTP Vision 2050
5. Public Comment and Next Steps

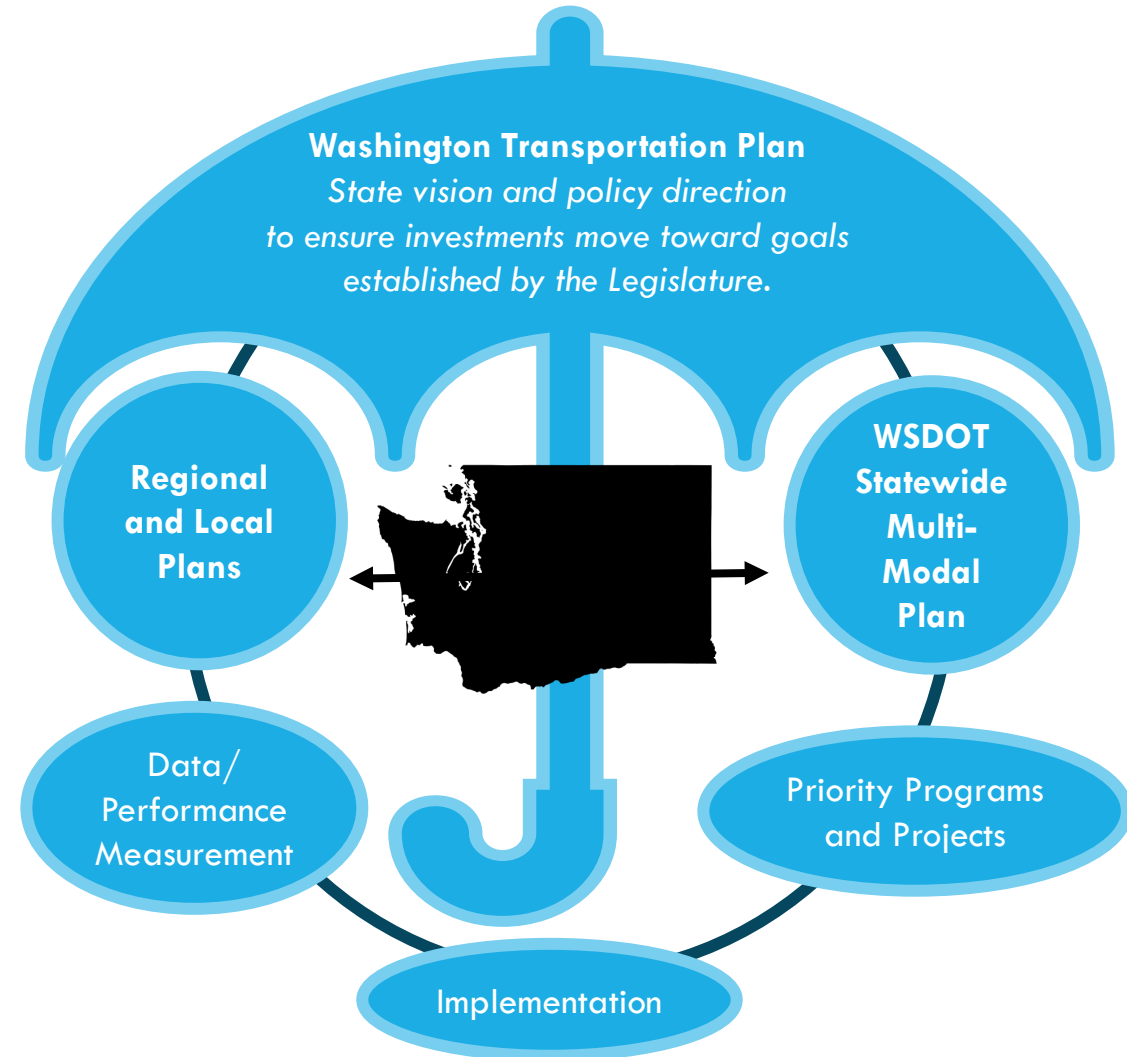
# 1. OVERVIEW OF WTP PROCESS

# THANK YOU! - REGIONAL, LOCAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL PARTNERS



# WASHINGTON STATE'S LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- **A statewide transportation policy plan** – the only state plan that connects the transportation dots at all jurisdictional levels and for all modes.
- **An avenue for public engagement** – extensive public outreach directly shapes the plan with active involvement from policy makers, operators, partners, and stakeholders.
- **Opportunity for coordination**- brings together the state, regional, and local agency planning activities, garner support, and introduce strategies that are action-oriented



# STATE POLICY GOALS IN LAW

## The Statutory Policy Goals Drive the WTP

### Economic Vitality

To promote and develop transportation systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and goods to **ensure a prosperous economy**.

### Mobility

Improve the predictable **movement of goods and people** throughout Washington state, including congestion relief and improved freight mobility.



### Preservation

To **maintain, preserve, and extend the life** and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services, including the state ferry system

### Environment

To enhance Washington's **quality of life** through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and **protect the environment**



### Safety

To provide for and improve the **safety and security** of transportation customers and the transportation system.

### Stewardship

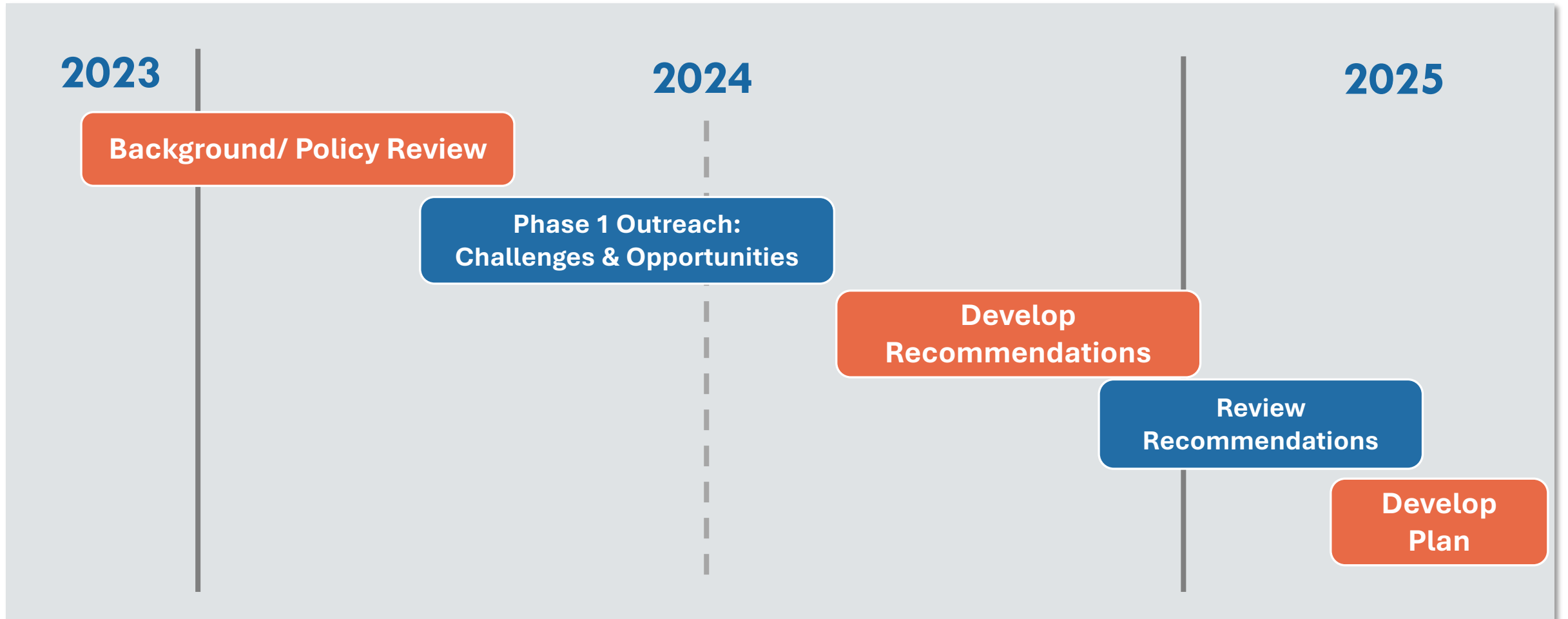
To continuously improve the **quality, effectiveness, resiliency, and efficiency** of the transportation system.

RCW 47.04.280 – Transportation System Policy Goals



Preservation and safety to be the top priorities of all the state transportation policy goals - HB 1137, 2021, Amending RCW 47.04.280

# WTP VISION 2050 TIMELINE



# **3. RECAP OF PUBLIC AND PARTNER ENGAGEMENT**

# ENGAGEMENT – PRIMARY ELEMENTS

Regional Listening Sessions

Partner Workshops

Topic Focus Groups

Public Survey

# LISTENING SESSIONS

## WITH REGIONAL & LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS

- The Commission held **six** listening sessions across the state in Spring 2024 focused on transportation professionals and partners.
- Discuss statewide planning priorities and hear about short and long-term challenges and opportunities



# INPUT FROM REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS

Common themes related to long-term transportation challenges and opportunities

## CHALLENGES

- *Failing infrastructure*
- *Climate change*
- *Affordability/land use/growth*
- *Workforce*
- *Electrification*
- *Funding (gas tax) and cost escalation*
- *Increased safety challenges (fatal collisions)*
- *Balancing expansion and preservation*
- *Cross-border connections*
- *Maintaining connectivity where there are few alternate routes*

## OPPORTUNITIES

- *Collaboration*
- *Federal and state policy alignment*
- *Technology*
- *Cross sector planning (utilities)*
- *Demographic shifts*
- *Multimodal strategies*
- *Co-benefits of transit/multimodal*
- *Motivation for transportation efficient communities and TOD*
- *Support for density in urban areas*
- *Funding for safety, and known countermeasures*

# TOPIC FOCUS GROUPS

Climate and Resiliency

Connecting Communities

Equity in Transportation

Long-Term Funding

**Purpose:** The purpose of the topic-specific workshops is to understand, with respect to the specific topic/pillar:

- 1) where the state is making progress,
- 2) where there is the most work to be done, and
- 3) what are the potential solutions to address those gaps

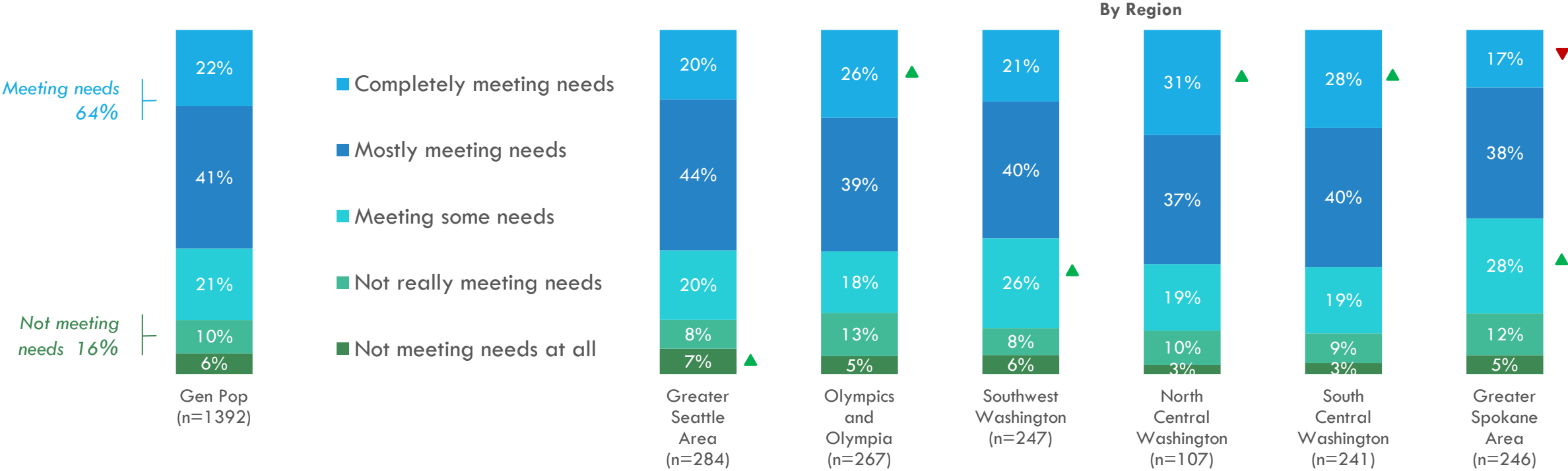
# STATEWIDE PUBLIC SURVEY

- Quantitative, online survey
- Conducted by Olympic Research & Strategy
- Total Surveys Collected: 3,311
- Survey provides a representative sample of current public opinion in the state that is statistically valid and projectable.



# IS TRANSPORTATION MEETING OUR NEEDS?

*Two-thirds of the general population feel the transportation system is mostly or completely meeting their needs.*

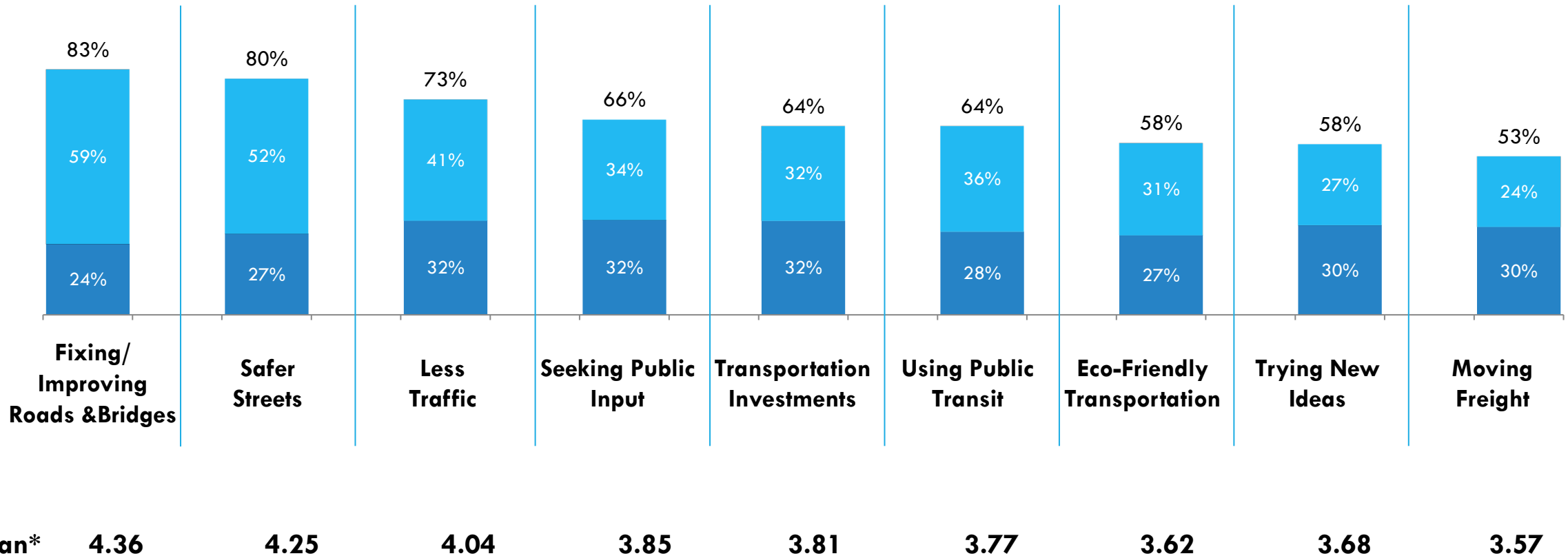


North Central, South Central and Olympics and Olympia residents are more likely to feel the transportation system is ‘completely’ meeting their needs, while those in Southwest WA and Greater Spokane are more inclined to say its meeting only ‘some of their needs.’

▲ ▼ Higher/Lower than one or more region

# WHAT ARE YOUR TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES?

Top 2 Box ■ 5 Extremely important ■ 4 Important



Mean\* 4.36

4.25

4.04

3.85

3.81

3.77

3.62

3.68

3.57

\*Higher mean= more important.

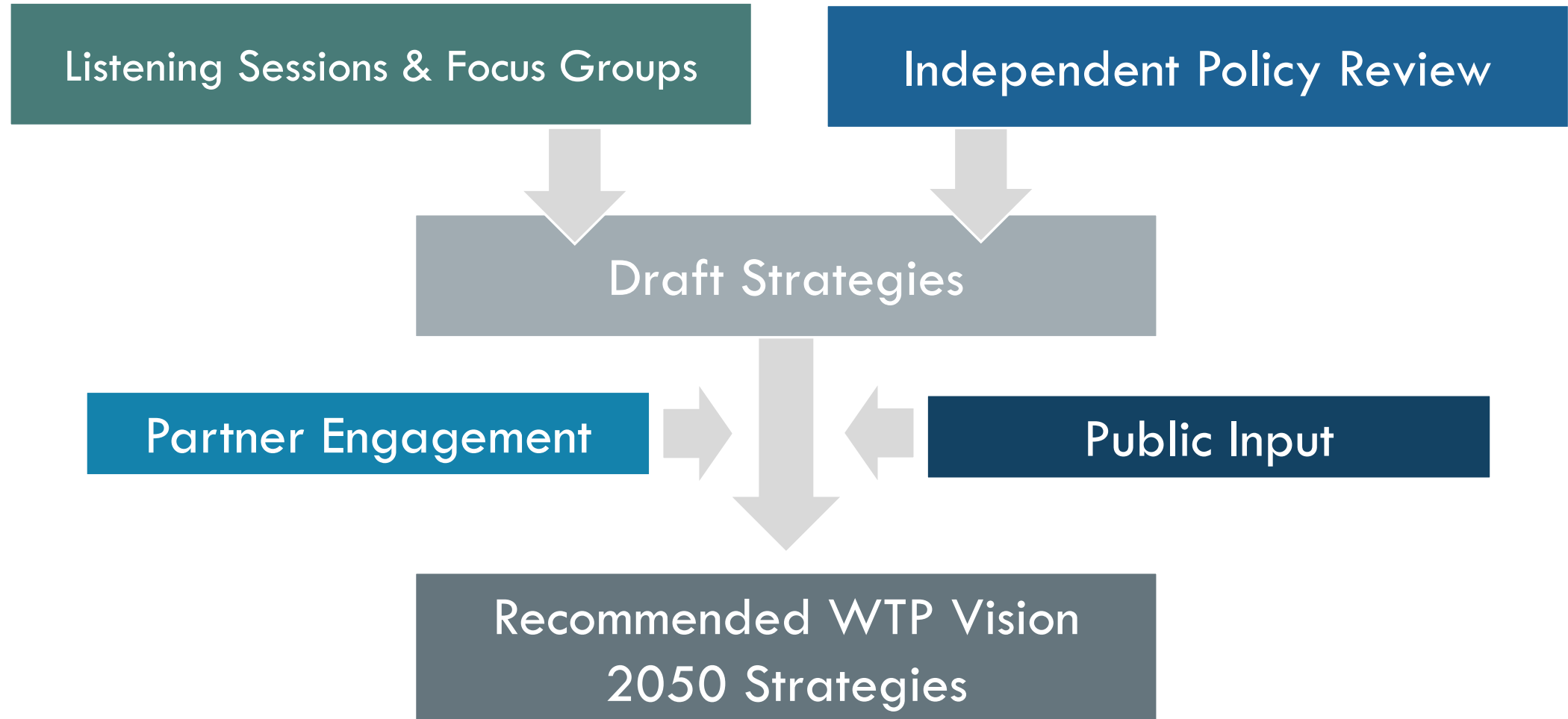
# HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE STATE'S POLICY GOALS?

■ Ranked #1      ■ Ranked 1-3 (net)



\*Lower mean= more important.

# DEVELOPING WTP VISION 2050 STRATEGIES

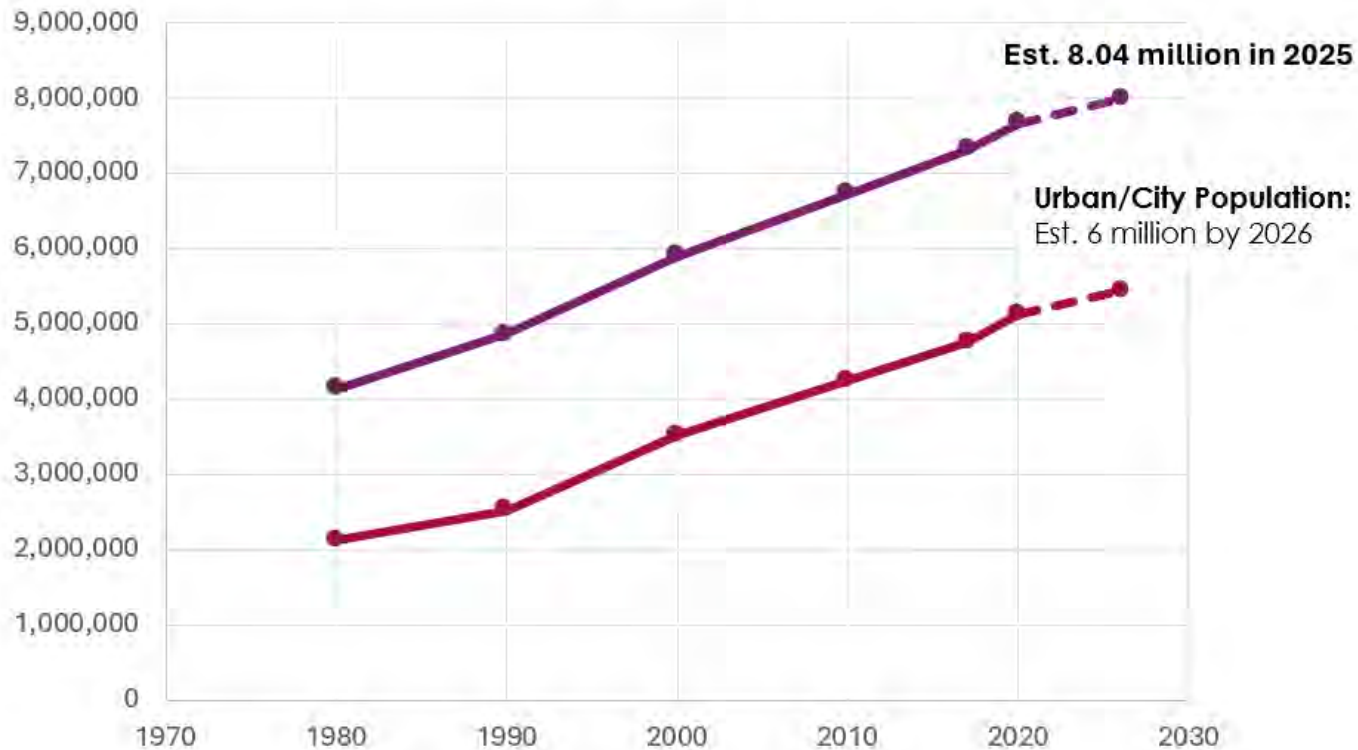


# **4. EMERGING CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES**

# A PLAN FOR 2050

## Population on the Rise...

State Population: Est. 9.8 million by 2050



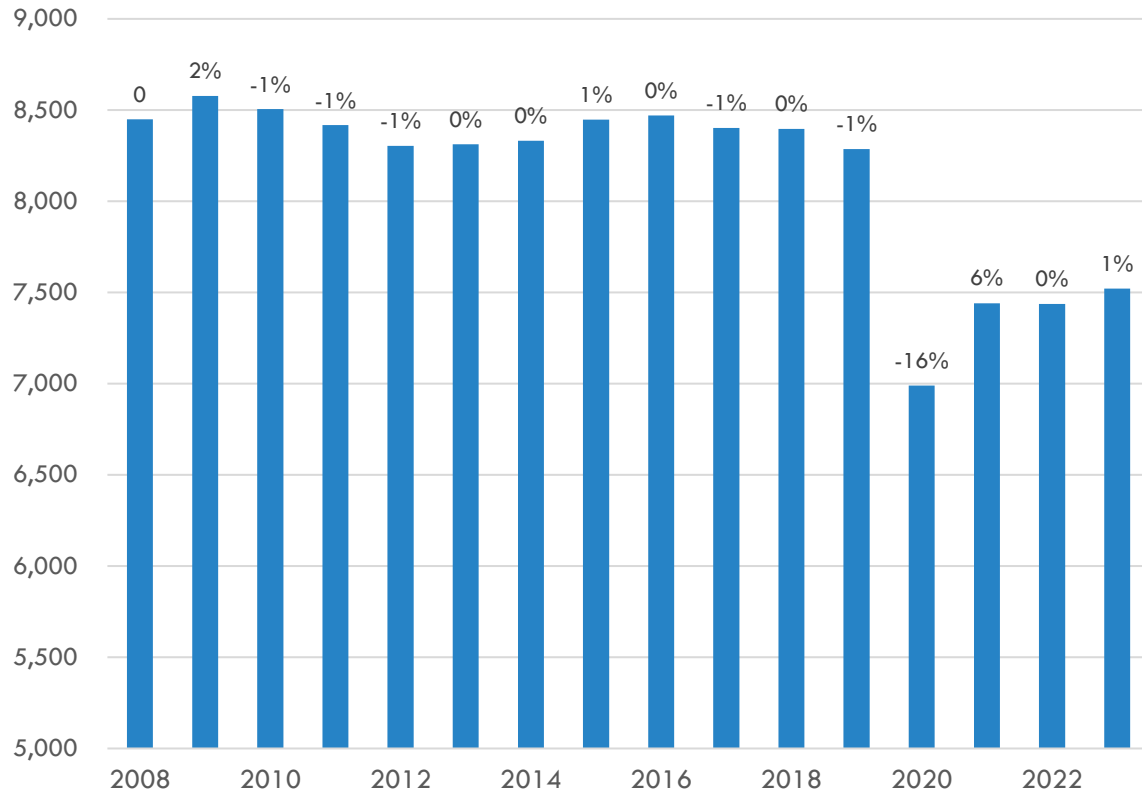
Source: Washington Office of Financial Management

## ... and Lofty Goals to Achieve

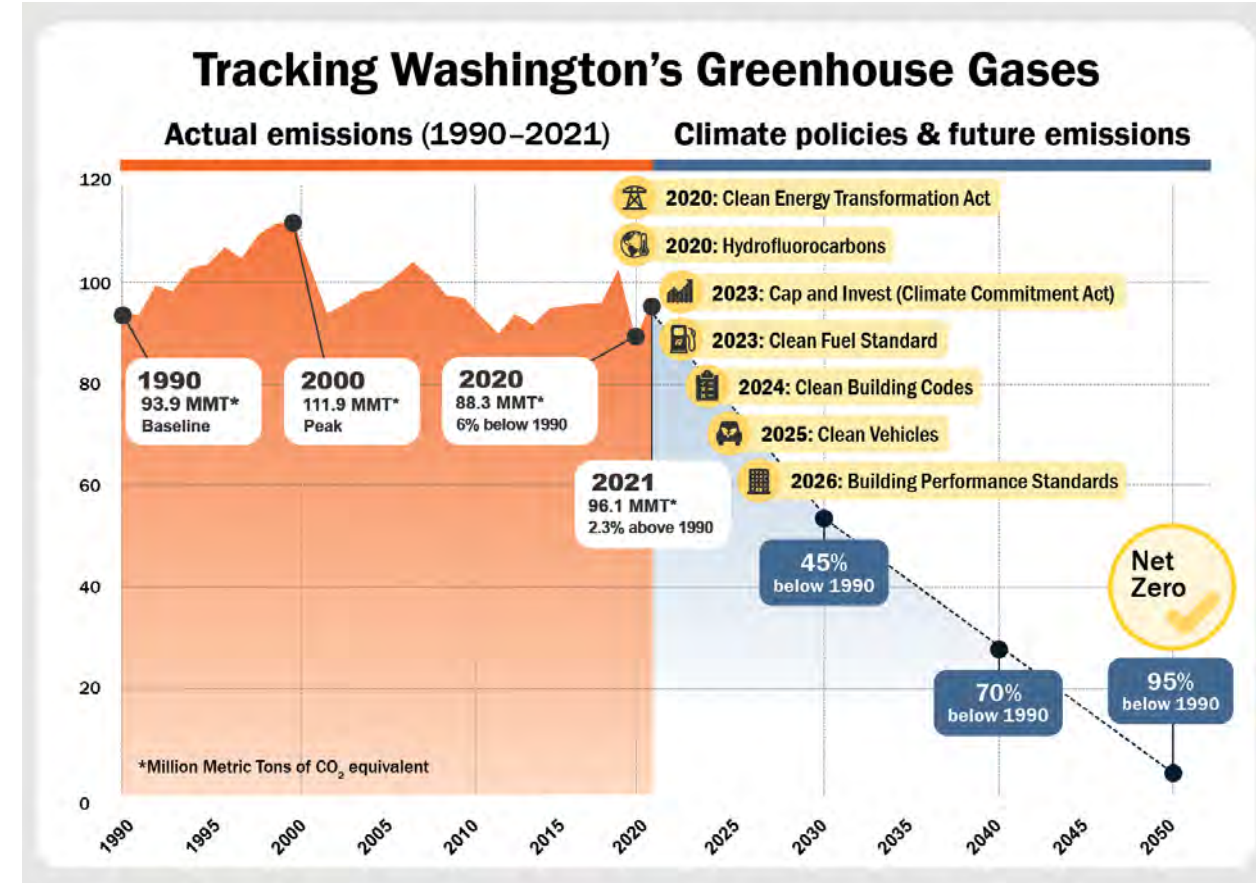
- Reduce annual **per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT)** by **50% by 2050** (RCW 47.01.440)
- Reduce **emissions** by **95%** below 1990 levels **by 2050**, achieving net-zero emissions (RCW 70A.45.020)

# MUCH PROGRESS IS NEEDED

## Per Capita Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled



**Covid helped reduce per capita VMT in 2020, but it is on the rise again. In 2023, every day we drove over 160 million miles in WA**



# HOUSING AS PART OF THE SOLUTION

An aerial view of a modern city street at dusk. The street is wide and multi-laned, with cars and a dedicated transit lane for yellow and green buses. On the left, there are multi-story brick buildings with balconies and ground-floor storefronts. Pedestrians are walking on the sidewalks, and some are riding bicycles. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall scene depicts a vibrant, walkable urban environment.

- **Washington needs 1.1 million** housing units by 2044 to keep up with population growth
- **Affordable Housing:** Half of these homes, 500,000 units, need to be affordable
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** 122,000 units of permanent supportive housing are needed

# THREE EMERGING PRIORITY AREAS

## **Maintain Critical Transportation Assets**

*Washington state must work to adequately fund the preservation and maintenance of our essential transportation infrastructure, including roadways, bridges, railways, and transit assets, to ensure safety, reliability, and long-term efficacy of the transportation system*

## **Develop Safe and Connected Communities**

*Washington state communities must be safe and well-connected by prioritizing transportation infrastructure that enhances mobility, accessibility, and safety. It builds and maintains transportation systems that minimize collisions and provide equitable access to all Washingtonians*

## **Establish Resilient and Reliable Systems**

*Washington state's transportation system must be capable of responding and adapting to increasingly frequent and severe weather events. Disruptions to travelers and freight routes must be minimized and delays, increased costs, and potential shortages associated with prolonged disruptions, reduced.*

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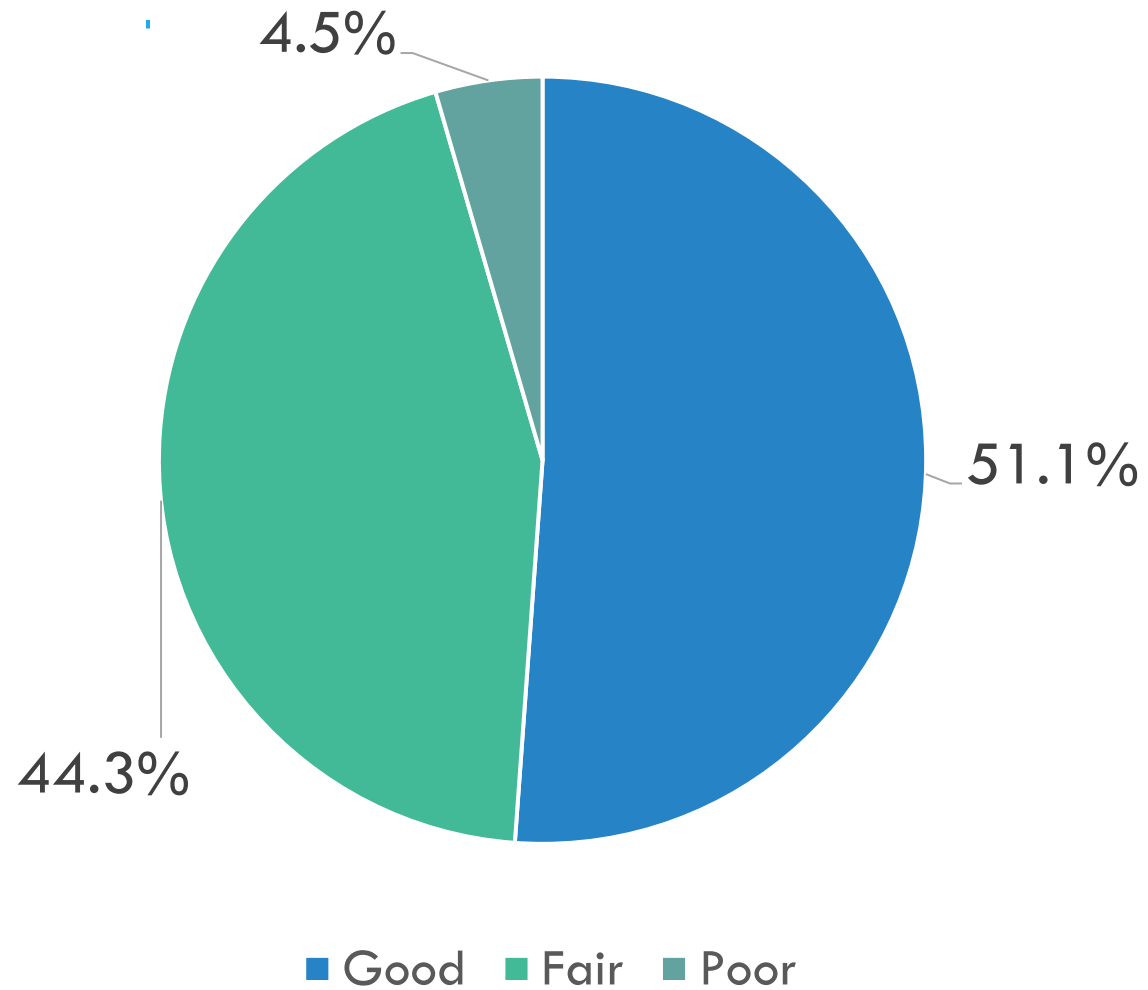
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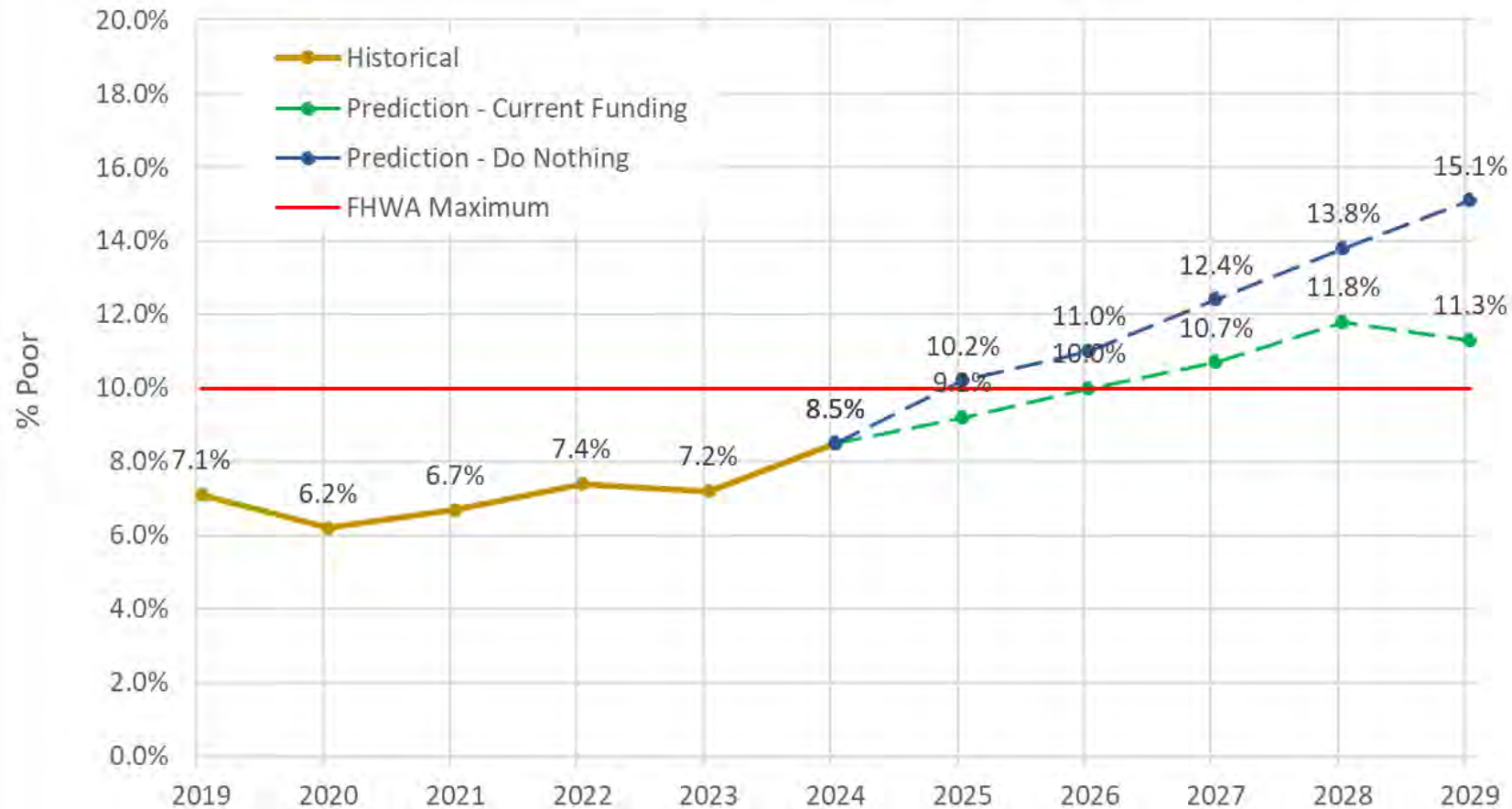
# LOCAL AGENCY BRIDGE OVERALL CONDITION



Counties maintain close to 5,000 bridges and cities maintain over 1,000.

Local agencies are responsible for the vast majority of short-span bridges, many of which need replacing

## Percentage of Poor Bridges in the WSDOT Bridge Inventory



Of **3,412** total bridges, the average age is **51** yrs, and **313** are over **80** yrs

Total replacement value of all WSDOT bridge is **\$131 billion**

Currently **8.5%** of **WSDOT** bridges are in poor condition. Under current funding, that number is expected to **exceed 11%** in the next 5 years

# PRIORITY AREAS AND POLICY GOALS

## State Policy Goals

Preservation

Stewardship



## Maintain Critical Transportation Assets: *Objectives*

- Meet preservation needs first
- Bring down average lifecycle costs
- Reduce barriers to implement preservation projects
- Use data to inform investment decisions
- Enhance collaboration and partnerships
- Ensure transportation investments balance goals

## Develop Safe and Connected Communities

## Establish Resilient and Reliable Systems

# THREE EMERGING PRIORITY AREAS

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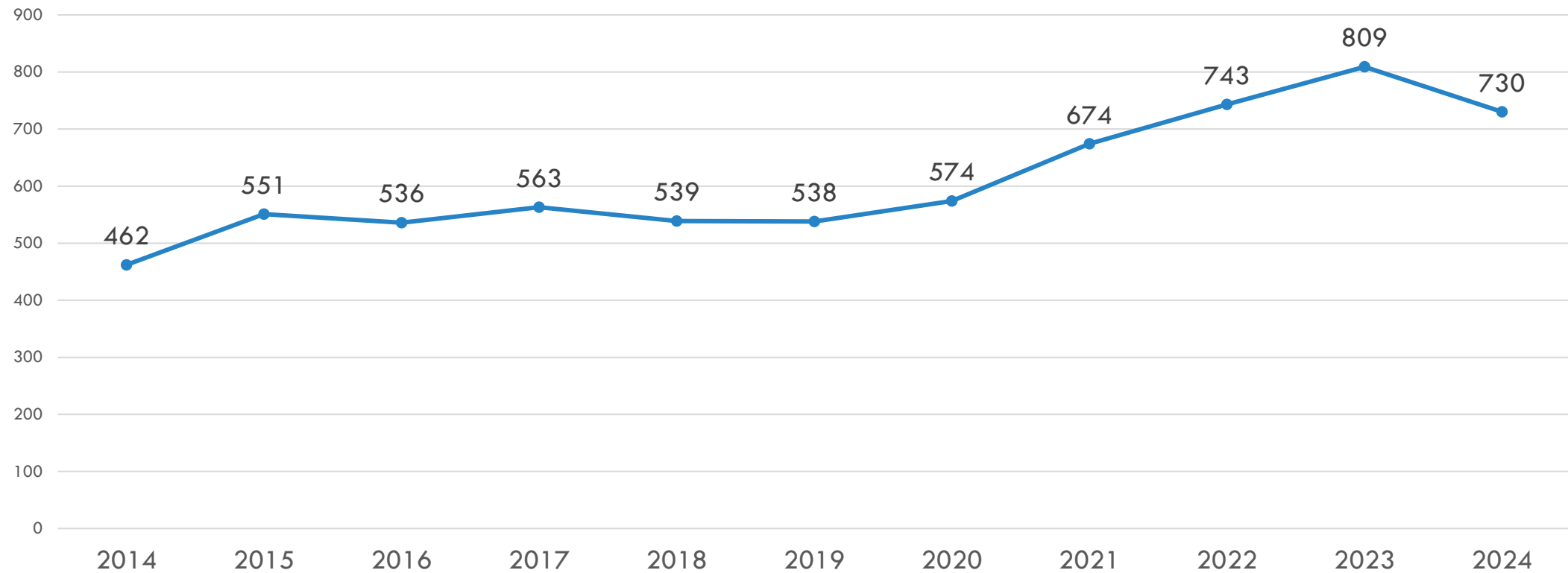
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# TRAFFIC FATALITIES IN WA REACHED 33-YEAR HIGH



Source: Washington Traffic Safety Commission

*After historic lows, traffic fatalities rose over the past decade, making 2023 was the worst year since 1990  
While traffic fatalities increased 21% from 2017-19 to 2020-22, active transportation fatalities increased **33%***

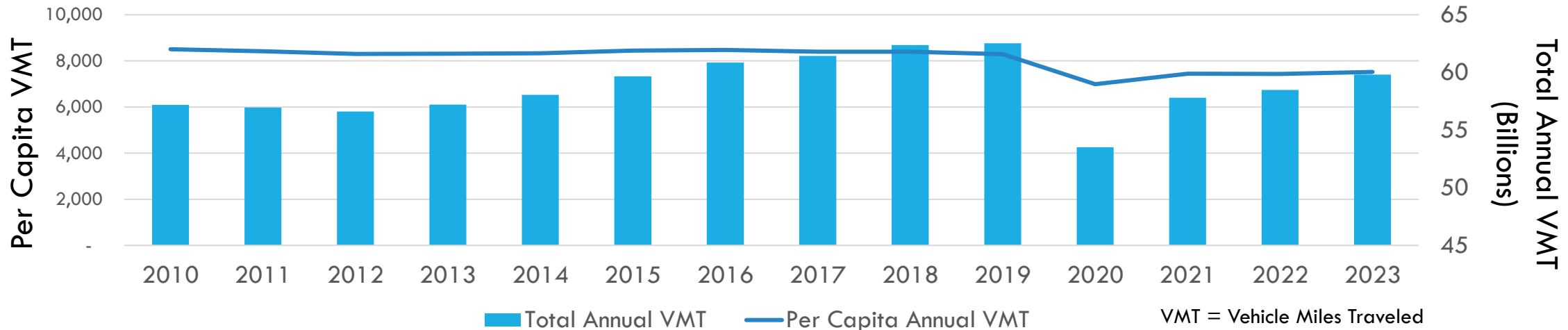
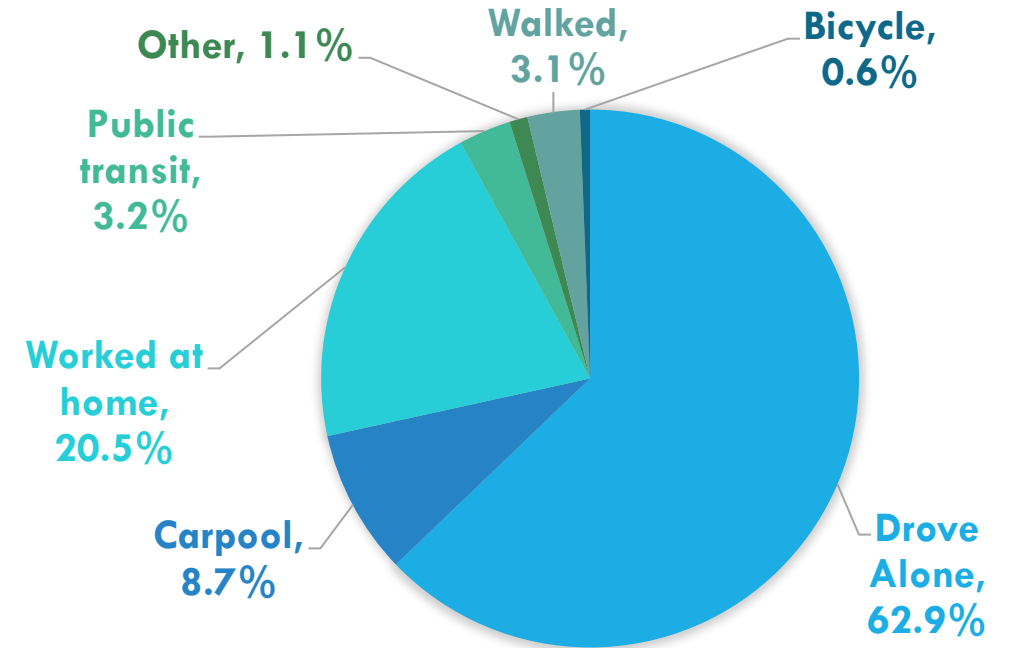
*2024 data, just released, showed a substantial drop in fatalities*

# LIMITED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

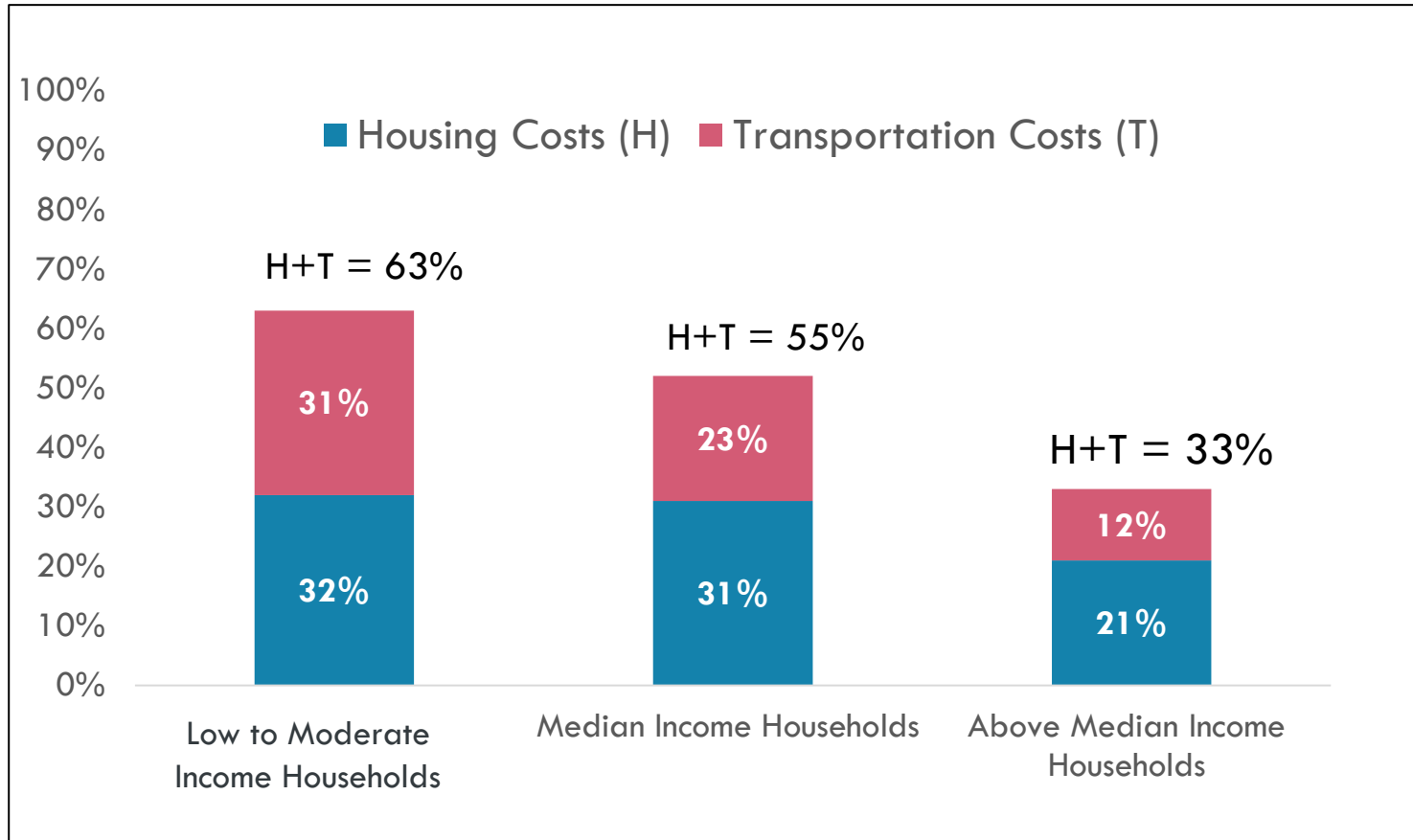
## 2022 Statewide Commute Mode Share

Lack of competitive alternatives have led Washingtonians continue to rely on private vehicles:

- Auto commute mode share is still above 70%.
- While per capita VMT was trending down pre-pandemic, total VMT has continued to rise, and per capita VMT is no longer declining



# COSTS OF POOR CONNECTIVITY



Washington residents spend **55% of their monthly income on housing and transportation on average**, and transportation costs alone were 23% for median income households.

In 2019, 22% of households struggled to make ends meet. In 2021, it increased to 28% of households are unable to cover their basic needs. The number is 45% for Black and Latino households.

Note: HUD established 45% of monthly income as baseline for housing & transportation costs.

# PRIORITY AREAS AND POLICY GOALS

## Maintain Critical Transportation Assets

### State Policy Goals

Safety

Mobility



## Develop Safe and Connected Communities: *Objectives*

- Make annual progress toward zero roadway fatalities by 2030
- Implement and evaluate new technology for enhanced safety
- Foster multi-agency and private partnerships
- Enhance the efficiency of our existing transportation systems
- Increase transit and active transportation mode share
- Make multimodal travel easy, safe, and convenient

## Establish Resilient and Reliable Systems

# THREE EMERGING PRIORITY AREAS

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# DISRUPTION FROM INLAND FLOODING

## Flood Events in Lewis County



2007: I-5 flooding  
*Resulted in an estimated  
\$47M economic losses\**



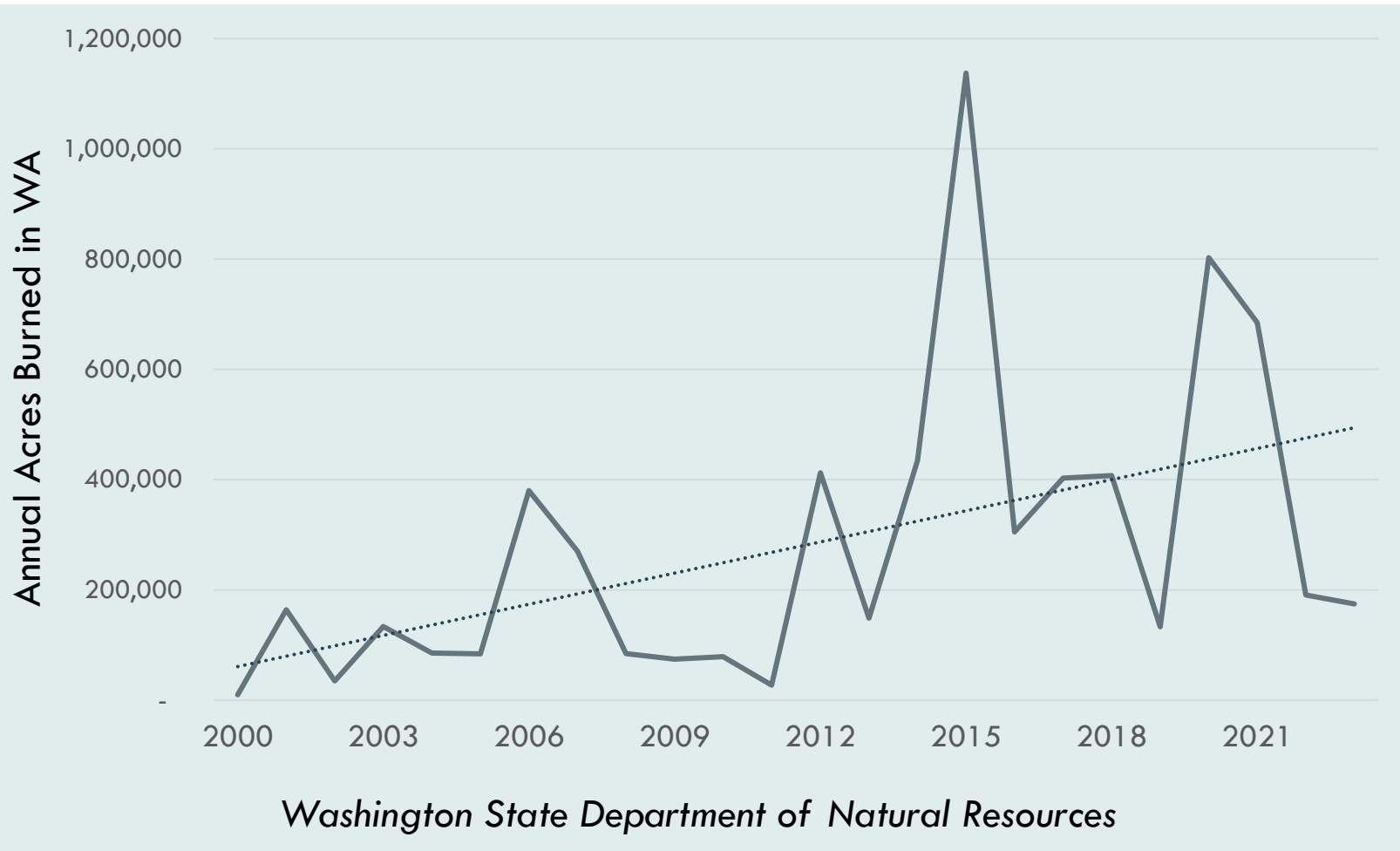
2021: Hwy 6 near I-5

- On any given year, there is a better than an 80% chance that 10 or more floods will occur (Dept of Ecology)
- 20 counties in the West have 69% of flood losses, including 5 in WA\*\*:
  - Lewis County, WA (\$3 billion)
  - King County, WA (\$2 billion)
  - Snohomish County, WA (\$1.2 billion)
  - Pierce County, WA (\$900 million)
  - Cowlitz County WA (\$500 million)

\*WSDOT: <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/research/reports/fullreports/708.1.pdf>

\*\*1978-2017: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6892633/>

# INCREASING WILDFIRE RISK



- Annual average acres burned (WA DNR)
  - 2000-2010: 127,000
  - 2011-2024: 405,000
- Annual acres burned in Washington will increase 3X by 2040s (Univ. of WA)
- Since the 1970s, the wildfire season in western states has extended from 5 months to over 7 months in length (USDA Climate Hub)

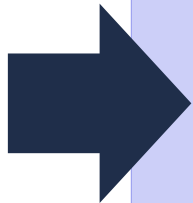
# PRIORITY AREAS AND POLICY GOALS

Maintain Critical Transportation Assets

Develop Safe and Connected Communities

State Policy Goals

Economic  
Vitality



Environment

Establish Resilient and Reliable Systems: *Objectives*

- Protect freight-critical infrastructure
- Increase transportation efficiency and capacity
- Invest in a future-ready workforce
- Reduce the transportation sector's annual greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Bolster the resilience of the transportation network
- Promote quality of life and environmental justice

# 5. WTP VISION 2050 PREVIEW

# THE WTP VISION 2050 STORY

*Washington Transportation Plan - WTP Vision 2050* is a plan for Washington State to be operationalized and implemented by all transportation agencies and transportation service providers across the state.

Supporting Quality of Life

Be Intentional

Working Together

The Future Starts Today

# WTP VISION 2050 STATEMENT

*By 2050, Washington's transportation system is sustainably funded, seamlessly integrated, and built on strong partnerships across all jurisdictions. It supports economic growth while meeting the urgent demands of climate and resiliency—promoting innovation, and improving safety and public health to enhance the quality of life for all Washingtonians, now and for generations to come.*

# COMPLEX PROBLEMS REQUIRE BIG IDEAS

**Working Towards a Clean  
Transportation Future**

**Recognizing We Are in it  
Together**

**Expanding Public Private  
Partnerships**

**Harnessing Technology To  
Move Us**

# WTP VISION 2050 PREVIEW



# 6. NEXT STEPS

# NEXT STEPS

- *Requesting permission to post draft WTP Vision 2050*
- WTP Vision 2050 to be posted on Commission website
- Public review period starting today until **July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- Substantive changes to the document will be discussed at July Commission meeting
- Final plan adoption end of July

# THANK YOU



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Stay tuned for more info on future opportunities to provide feedback online at:

[www.wstc.wa.gov/wtp/washington-transportation-plan](http://www.wstc.wa.gov/wtp/washington-transportation-plan)