

Clean transportation is central to our state transportation mission

DECEMBER 2014

✓ KEY TAKEAWAYS

PROMOTE 'clean' vehicle choices

IDENTIFY opportunities for transportation efficiencies

FIND opportunities for multimodal investments

DEVELOP planning policies and guidance that enhance multimodal planning

DEVELOP a long term statewide multimodal transportation plan



PURPOSE: Gov. Inslee's Carbon Pollution Reduction and Clean Energy Action Executive Order directs a multi-agency, multi-pronged effort to address causes of climate change in Washington head on and create solutions in critical areas. Led by WSDOT, clean transportation is one key area that requires agencies and governments at all levels to promote strategies, policies and investments that support electrification of our transportation system, lower-emission multimodal options and clean fuels.

The greatest percentage of carbon emissions in Washington come from cars, trucks and other transportation-related sources. The Washington State Department of Transportation's mission is to provide and support safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation options to improve livable communities and economic vitality for people and businesses. Climate change challenges our ability to fulfill this mission and is now one of the top priorities in the agency's strategic plan.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders

to identify and leverage the collective resources. The purposes of these efforts are to maximize planning efforts, recommend incentives for consumers and businesses and offer assistance to local governments. Washingtonians will be better able to utilize the full capacity of the state's transportation system, which in turn will lower emissions and reduce congestion. Our clean transportation effort addresses several key areas including:

1. Electric vehicles
2. Transportation efficiencies
3. Multimodal transportation investment
4. Planning policies and guidance
5. Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

All of these areas combined, form a comprehensive approach to working with partners to guide multimodal transportation planning that addresses climate change challenges and ultimately maximizes the full capacity of our statewide, multimodal system.

PROPOSAL: Promote 'clean' vehicle choices

Transportation is our largest source of greenhouse gases in Washington—47 percent in 2012. Half of that, 22 million metric tons annually, comes from passenger vehicles on our roadways.

BENEFITS: By providing consumers with cleaner vehicle choices (cars/trucks that emit less air pollution), cleaner fuels and a more efficient transportation system, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also will improve air quality and enhance energy and economic security for Washington.

PROGRESS: On track to submit action plan to the Governor's Office by December 2014. The report details recommendations to increase electric vehicle use in Washington.

PROPOSAL: Identify opportunities for transportation efficiencies

BENEFITS: The departments of Transportation, Commerce and Ecology are working together to develop guidance that helps local governments develop comprehensive transportation plans that are consistent with Growth Management Act requirements.

In addition, they are also partnering with a subcommittee of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties to determine technical and financial assistance needed by local governments to maximize efficiency in the movement of goods and people while reducing costs and GHG emissions.

PROGRESS: On track to complete an assessment of technical and financial assistance needs by December 2014. The report will provide decision makers ideas and recommendations for potential assistance to local governments.

PROPOSAL: Find opportunities for multimodal investments

BENEFITS: This collaborative effort between WSDOT, Transportation Improvement Board, County Road Administration Board, Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board and the Office of Financial Management reviews, identifies and will implement opportunities to increase state investment and alignment of those investments with the multimodal transportation plan.

PROGRESS: On track to report on opportunities available for multimodal investment through state grant programs by December

2014. The report will identify the existing and recent adjustments to increase multimodal investments made by the State Grant Programs.

PROPOSAL: Develop planning policies and guidance that enhance multimodal planning

WSDOT is actively reviewing, developing and implementing new planning policies and guidance documents for conducting multimodal transportation planning.

BENEFITS: The new guidance and policies will support practical solutions approaches in planning that increase transportation choices, foster innovative land use, and reduce transportation emissions.

PROGRESS: On track to complete draft policies and guidance by December 2014. Guidance will assist transportation professionals with current best practices and direction at all levels of planning, from community and corridor to regional and statewide planning. These in turn should help foster partnerships and provide more practical, relevant analyses for building and sustaining our transportation system.

PROPOSAL: Develop a long term statewide multimodal transportation plan

Develop, adopt and implement a multimodal, federally compliant, long-range statewide transportation plan to guide federal, state and local transportation investments.

BENEFITS: Creates more reliability for public agencies and businesses to plan for future development and better utilizes the capacity of the entire transportation system.

PROGRESS: Scheduled to adopt Phase I in December 2014. A collaborative scoping process for the federally compliant Phase II will begin in 2015. On track to develop of the scope of work in spring 2015 (pending release of final federal planning rules).

For more information

Megan White, P.E., Director

Environmental Services Office

360.705.7480

WhiteM@wsdot.wa.gov