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# Aviation and Marine

## Overview and Table of Contents

This section provides information about air and water modes of transportation used in the state.

Aviation and Marine.....	369
Overview and Table of Contents .....	369
Air Transportation.....	370
Commercial Shipping (Waterborne).....	373
Ferries.....	376
Ferry Route Map.....	378

# Air Transportation

## BACKGROUND

- Aviation facilities in the Washington State System Plan include a total of 139 public-use airports serving over 25,000 pilots across the state.
  - 14 Commercial/Primary Service Airports: Seattle-Tacoma International, Spokane International, Tri-Cities, Bellingham International, Yakima Air Terminal, Pangborn Memorial, Walla Walla Regional, Pullman/Moscow Regional, Port Angeles International, Friday Harbor, Boeing Field International, Grant County International, Orcas Island, and Anacortes.
  - 5 Reliever Airports:
    - Puget Sound: Auburn Municipal, Snohomish County, Renton Municipal, and Harvey Field
    - Spokane: Felts Field
- Airport ownership varies across the state:
  - 44 are city owned
  - 10 are county owned
  - 33 are owned by ports
  - 5 are jointly owned by city-county or city-city
  - 31 are privately owned
- There are 17 state-operated or state-owned airports that are strategically located to provide aircraft emergency access and fire suppression bases in remote areas of the state. These airports also serve remote communities and are used for recreation.
- Each year over 750 lifesaving ambulance missions and over 460 search and rescue missions are flown from public-use airports.
- About 47% or 65 public-use airports in the state are also within the National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPAIS) plan. These airports support the Federal Aviation Administration's strategic goals.
- In 2008 Seattle-Tacoma International ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation for total number of passenger boardings. Spokane International followed (among Washington State airports) at 71<sup>st</sup> in the nation.<sup>1</sup> Air Freight<sup>2</sup>. Three airports that provide freight service qualify for federal funds through the FAA. FAA defines airports eligible for air cargo entitlements as —must exceed 1 million pounds of landing weight.‖ The three qualifying major air cargo centers in Washington are:
  - Seattle-Tacoma International (18<sup>th</sup> nationally in 2008 for total landed weight)
  - Boeing Field International (32<sup>rd</sup> )
  - Spokane International (46<sup>th</sup> )
  - In addition, 12 other state airports provide air freight services.

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<sup>1</sup> FAA CY 2008 Passenger Boarding and All-Cargo Data. Final CY 2009 data is available October 2010. [http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning\\_capacity/passenger\\_allcargo\\_stats/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/)

<sup>2</sup> FAA CY 2008 Passenger Boarding and All-Cargo Data

## GOVERNANCE

- Public-use airports are operated by port districts, cities, counties, and private interests. Public-owned facilities use several different funding mechanisms, including user fees (such as landing fees and passenger facility charges), voter-approved property tax levies, interest income, federal and state grants, and bond proceeds.
- WSDOT Aviation programs include the airport grant aid program, aviation system and land use planning, search and rescue, aircraft registration, and state managed airport administration.
- Programs operated by WSDOT-Aviation Division:
  - Construction and maintenance of facilities for 17 state-operated airports
  - Technical assistance to airports, cities, and counties
  - Search and rescue operations
  - Development of Washington Aviation System Plan
  - Height Hazard Obstruction technical assistance
  - Special studies, including:
    - Pavement Conditions Assessment 2005 (5-year cycle)
    - Economic Benefits Analysis of Airports in Washington State 2001
    - Rural Airport Study 2002
    - Airport Conditions Assessment, 2006, Phase I LATS
    - Grant Assistance Program
    - Airport Land Use Compatibility Program and Technical Assistance in accordance with RCW 36.70.547 and 36.70A.510

## FUNDING

### **Funding for WSDOT-Aviation Division:**

- State aviation fuel tax (RCW 82.42)
  - 11 cents per gallon fuel tax, which applies to general aviation aircraft, with exceptions as provided by law (aircraft exemptions include aircraft for government, military, commercial manufacturing, air carriers, testing, and agriculture)
  - Expected revenue for 2009–11 Biennium: \$6 million
- Motor fuel tax transfer (RCW 82.36.415)
  - 0.028% of the gross motor fuel tax (less sales tax) (estimate \$500,000)
  - Compensation for unclaimed motor vehicle fuel used in aircraft
- Aircraft registration fee (RCW 47.68.250)
  - \$15 paid annually by owners of aircraft operating in Washington State
- Aircraft excise tax (RCW 82.48.)
  - Annual rate levied on a sliding scale of \$35–\$140 per aircraft depending on the type and size of the aircraft
  - 10% of funds go to the Aviation Division to defray costs of registration and collection
  - 90% of the funds are deposited in the General Fund

- Grants
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - all grants require matching: 95% federal – 5% state/local. FAA grants fund the following:
    - State Aviation System Plan projects
    - State's Pavement Management Program
    - Airport master planning
    - Airport Improvement Projects
- State funds are used for the following purposes:
  - Provide matching grants to municipalities for constructing projects to improve airport infrastructure
  - Provide funding to many airports that do not qualify for federal funds
  - Technical assistance
  - Airport master planning
  - Emergency Response Aviation Facilities

**Funding sources for local airport funding:**

- Dedicated aviation funds: from proceeds of leases, hangar rentals, commercial leases, concessions, etc.
- Major airports (e.g., Seattle-Tacoma and Spokane International) impose landing fees on airlines to cover operations and finance capital improvements made with revenue bonds. In addition, passenger facility charges are assessed at commercial service airports for improvement projects.
- Some ports, counties, and cities appropriate general tax revenues to support their facilities.

## Commercial Shipping (Waterborne)

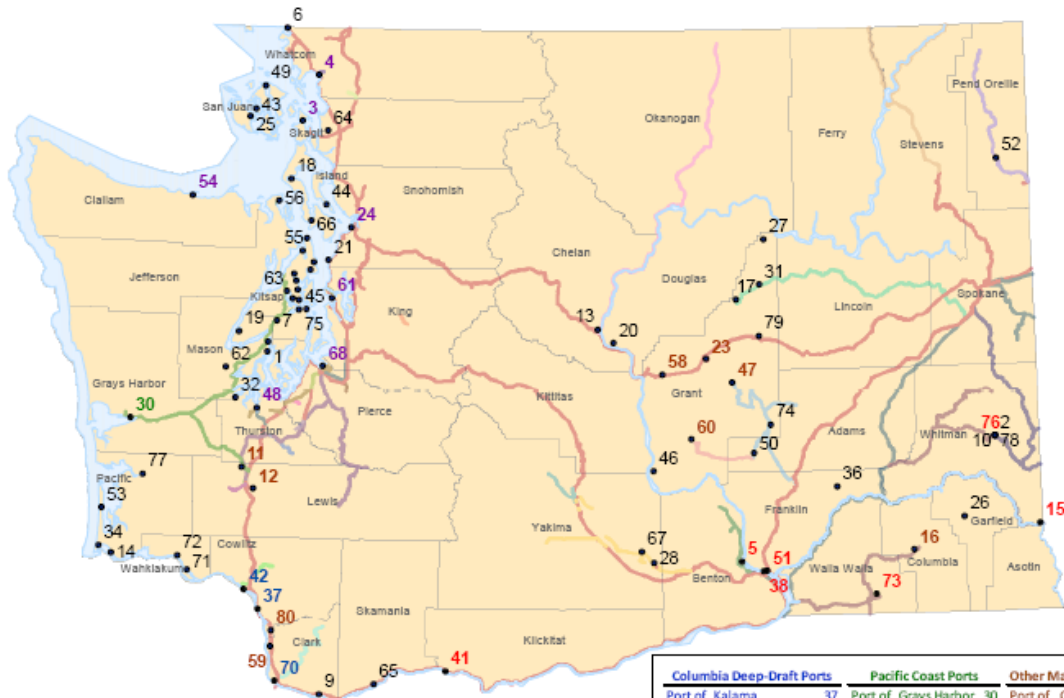
### BACKGROUND

- In 2008, over 122.1 million tons of freight entered or left Washington State through Washington’s seaports, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and 11.5 million tons moved within the state.
- Crude petroleum, sand and gravel, and manufactured goods were the top three inbound commodities, by tonnage, in 2008. Food and food products, petroleum products, and lumber or wood were the top three outbound commodities, by tonnage, in 2008.
- In 2008, Washington State’s seaports handled almost \$92.5 billion in international trade.
- Puget Sound seaports move large volumes of containerized imports from Asia, and the Columbia River seaports move large volumes of U.S. agricultural exports.
- Seventy percent of total inbound international container traffic is pass-through cargo destined for the Midwest or Eastern United States.
- In 2009, the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma together handled more than 3.1 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units), remaining the second largest container port complex on the West Coast.
- There are 11 deep-draft public ports in Washington with commercial marine terminals, and six shallow-draft public marine terminals. There are shallow-draft ports frequently used for fish landings at the Ports of Willapa Harbor, Peninsula, Ilwaco, and Chinook. In addition, there are many privately-owned marine terminal facilities throughout the state.
- Washington has seven deep-draft ports in Puget Sound, one on the Pacific Coast and three deep-draft ports on the Columbia River. In addition, there are seven inland ports on the Columbia-Snake Rivers that are served by barge.
- The ports are listed on the map on the next page. The numbers are used to locate them on the map.

### **MAJOR PORTS**

<b><u>Columbia Deep-Draft Ports</u></b>	<b><u>Pacific Coast Ports</u></b>		<b><u>Other Major Inland Ports</u></b>
Port of Kalama 37	Port of Grays Harbor 30		Port of Centralia 11
Port of Longview 42			Port of Chehalis 12
Port of Vancouver 70	<b><u>Puget Sound Ports</u></b>		Port of Columbia 16
	Port of Anacortes 3		Port of Ephrata 23
<b><u>Columbia/Snake River Ports</u></b>	Port of Bellingham 4		Port of Moses Lake 47
Port of Benton 5	Port of Everett 24		Port of Quincy 58
Port of Clarkston 15	Port of Olympia 48		Port of Ridgefield 59
Port of Kennewick 38	Port of Port Angeles 54		Port of Royal Slope 60
Port of Klickitat 41	Port of Seattle 61		Port of Woodland 80
Port of Pasco 51	Port of Tacoma 68		
Port of Walla Walla 73			
Port of Whitman County 76			

# 2009 Washington Ports



Columbia Deep-Draft Ports	Pacific Coast Ports	Other Major Inland Ports
Port of Kalama 37	Port of Grays Harbor 30	Port of Centralia 11
Port of Longview 42		Port of Chehalis 12
Port of Vancouver 70	<b>Puget Sound Ports</b>	Port of Columbia 16
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Port of Kennewick 38	Port of Port Angeles 54	Port of Royal Slope 60
Port of Klickitat 41	Port of Seattle 61	Port of Woodland 80
Port of Pasco 51	Port of Tacoma 68	
Port of Walla Walla 73		
Port of Whitman County 76		



Source: WSDOT State Rail and Marine Office  
 rail@wsdot.wa.gov / 360-705-7900  
 August 2010

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## Smaller Ports

Port of Allyn	1	Port of Grandview	28	Port of Peninsula	53
Port of Almota	2	Port of Grapeview	29	Port of Port Gamble	55
Port of Blaine	6	Port of Hartline	31	Port of Port Townsend	56
Port of Bremerton	7	Port of Hoodspout	32	Port of Poulsbo	57
Port Brownsville	8	Port of Illahee	33	Port of Shelton	62
Port of Camas-Washougal	9	Port of Ilwaco	34	Port of Silverdale	63
Port of Central Ferry	10	Port of Indianola	35	Port of Skagit County	64
Port of Chelan County	13	Port of Kahlotus	36	Port of Skamania County	65
Port of Chinook	14	Port of Keyport	39	Port of South Whidbey Island	66
Port of Coulee City	17	Port of Kingston	40	Port of Sunnyside	67
Port of Coupeville	18	Port of Lopez	43	Port of Tracyton	69
Port of Dewatto	19	Port of Mabana	44	Port of Wahkiakum Co. No. 1	71
Port of Douglas County	20	Port of Manchester	45	Port of Wahkiakum Co. No. 2	72
Port of Edmonds	21	Port of Mattawa	46	Port of Warden	74
Port of Eglon	22	Port of Orcas	49	Port of Waterman	75
Port of Friday Harbor	25	Port of Othello	50	Port of Willapa Harbor	77
Port of Garfield	26	Port of Pend Oreille	52	Port of Wilma	78
Port of Grand Coulee	27			Port of Wilson Creek	79

## GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

- Washington’s ports are public agencies authorized in state statute.
- Port districts are special-purpose districts dedicated to building and operating facilities to foster trade and economic development.
- Ports are funded by user fees, property lease and rental fees, property tax levies, interest income, grants, operations revenues, and bond proceeds (RCW 53.36).
- The United States Coast Guard regulates navigation and surface water transportation.
- The Washington Board of Pilotage Commissioners is responsible for maintaining pilotage services on the Puget Sound and the coastal estuaries.
- The Oregon Board of Pilotage governs pilotage services on the Columbia River.

# Ferries

## BACKGROUND

- The Department of Transportation, Washington State Ferries (WSF) is the nation's largest ferry system.
  - Washington State's largest tourist attraction
  - Links urban areas on the east side of Puget Sound and communities on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas
  - Links San Juan Islands and Vashon Island with mainland
  - Links Washington State with Canada through Sidney route
- Ferries are also operated by private businesses and counties.

## GOVERNANCE

### **State Ferries**

- Operated by the WSDOT – Washington State Ferries.
- System includes 21 vessels providing service on 9 routes to 20 terminals; in 2010 ferries carried 22.5 million riders and 10.1 million vehicles.
- Current WSF vessel fleet consists of 9 vessel types: Jumbo Mark II Class (3), Jumbo Class (2), Super Class (4), Issaquah Class (1), Issaquah 130 Class (5), Evergreen State Class (3), Kwa-di-Tabil (1), Rhododendron and Hiyu (1 each).
- WSF currently serves 20 terminals in 8 counties and British Columbia. WSF owns 14 of the terminals and 6 others are leased.

### **County Ferries**

- Four counties currently operate public ferries:
  - Pierce, Whatcom, Skagit, and Wahkiakum counties
  - Largely funded with county road funds, Wahkiakum receives state support.

### **Private Ferry Operations**

- There are 19 private ferry operations registered with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.
  - 14 serve between land-based destinations
  - 5 exclusively provide anchorage services
- In August 2004, a private ferry operator, Kitsap Ferry Co., began passenger-only ferry service between Bremerton and Seattle. In January 2005, Aqua Express began passenger-only ferry service between Kingston and Seattle, then discontinued later that year. Additional passenger-only routes are being reviewed by private operators for possible future service.
- In addition, there are operations traveling between Port Angeles and Victoria, British Columbia; Seattle and Victoria; and Bellingham and Alaska.

### **Other Ferry Operations**

- There are five operations in the state that fall into the category "other":
  - The Colville Indian Tribe provides a toll-free crossing of Lake Roosevelt (Columbia River)



- The Alaska Marine Highway (between Bellingham, Washington and Skagway, Alaska)
- British Columbia Steamship (between Seattle and Victoria)
- WSDOT Eastern Region maintains and operates the Keller Ferry on SR 21 in Eastern Washington.

#### FUNDING

- State Ferries
  - Dedicated Motor fuel tax distribution for ferry operations (0.54 cents of 23-cent dedicated gas tax)
  - Dedicated Motor fuel tax distribution for ferry capital construction (0.55 cents of 23-cent dedicated gas tax)
  - Motor fuel tax support from MVA
  - Combined licensing fee (1.661% of collections)
  - Ferry fares, concessions, and rent
  - Federal Ferry Boat and Terminals Construction Program
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs—Section 5309 and Section 5307
  - Federal Surface Transportation Program
  - Federal Homeland Security grant funds from the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) and the Transit Security Administration (TSA)
  - Bond proceeds
- County Ferry Districts (*See Local Taxes, page 107*)
- PTBA Ferry Operations (*See Local Taxes, page 107*)

# Ferry Route Map

