



JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Evaluation of State –Level Transportation Plans

Presentation July 15, 2010



Consultant Team: Cedar River Group | Lund Consulting | BERK & ASSOCIATES | Wilbur Smith Associates

PURPOSE

The principle objective of this project is to improve the utility and minimize the cost of state-level transportation plans, and to clarify responsibility for their preparation.

Transportation Budget

The legislature has directed the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to “Evaluate the preparation of state-level transportation plans. The evaluation must include a review of federal planning requirements, the Washington Transportation Plan and statewide modal plan requirements, and transportation plan requirements for regional and local entities. The evaluation must make recommendations concerning the appropriate responsibilities for preparation of plans, methods to develop plans more efficiently, and the utility of statewide planning documents. (ESSB 6381, Section 204, (7)(210))

BACKGROUND

Governance

- 2005 Washington State Department of Transportation - a cabinet agency
- 2011-30 Washington Transportation Plan - first one by Washington State Transportation Commission separately
- Highlighted need to clarify relationships among the Washington Transportation Plan, WSDOT's multi-modal and mode plans, corridor plans, and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

Policy Goals

- Six overarching goals established by RCW 47.04.280 – basis for WTP & biennial attainment report

Preservation

Stewardship

Safety

Environmental Quality

Mobility

Economic Vitality

CONSULTANTS

CEDAR RIVER GROUP
LUND CONSULTING
BERK & ASSOCIATES
WILBUR SMITH ASSOCIATES

- Combination of firms that have advanced the State's transportation planning, accountability, and performance reporting and a firm with a national perspective.
- Cedar River Group & Lund Consulting will conduct the analysis and prepare recommendations.
- Berk & Associates will provide background from their work on the WTP.
- Wilbur Smith Associates will provide expertise on emerging federal requirements and on other state planning efforts, organizational structures, and costs.

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

JTC staff have prepared the review of planning requirements.

House and Senate staffs will review all efforts.

Consultants and legislative staff will also work with affected state and local agencies:

- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Transportation Commission
- Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
- Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations

White Paper on Initial Findings

Task 1: Review planning requirements

- Plans required by federal and/or state law (JTC staff review)
- Frequency and content requirements
- Review emerging federal planning trends

Task 2: Roles and responsibilities

- Plans prepared by the state and regional and metropolitan planning agencies
- Interplay between the Washington Transportation Plan and WSDOT plans
- Vertical integration of plans

Task 3: Plan utilization

- Chart on plans are intended to affect investment and other decisions
- Case study analysis - how are plans affecting decision-making

Task 4: Resources

- State and regional spending on planning

Analysis and Recommendations to Answer Key Questions

- What is the state trying to achieve through transportation planning?
- How can the state best prepare for potential shifts in federal direction?
- What are other states doing, how are they organized, and what are they spending?
- What state-level plans should be required?
- How should planning responsibility be allocated?
- What legislation should be considered to modify requirements and assign responsibility?
- What are the financial impacts of proposed modifications?

Task 5. Review what the state wants to achieve through transportation planning

- RCWs provide some guidance

Task 6. Review other state planning efforts

- Identify and analyze states that have a similar organizational structure, effective transportation planning, and are successful in receiving federal support

Task 7. Review federal initiatives

- Requirements for data driven and outcome planning
- Relationship of planning to investment decisions

Task 8. Recommend state-level plans

- Essential plans: schedule, vertical integration, links to investment decisions and performance reporting, and legislative review
- Desirable plans: schedule
- Planning that should no longer be required or plans that should be consolidated

Task 9. Responsibility

- Agencies that should be responsible for the essential & desirable plans
- Coordination requirements
- Plan review

Task 10. Draft legislation

- Draft bill for consideration

Task 11. Financial impact

- Operating and capital costs impact over 16-year plan period
- Budget allocation or re-allocation

Task 12. Report

SCHEDULE

JTC COMMITTEE REVIEWS

October 12:

- White Paper on Tasks 1-4
- Task 5 Discussion: What is the state trying to achieve ?

December 1:

- Draft Final Report

Session:

- House and Senate Transportation Committees if requested