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# Local/Regional Plans

## Overview and Table of Contents

State, local, and regional plans provide a framework for the development of Washington's transportation system. Included in this section are descriptions of plans developed by the cities, counties, regional transportation planning organizations, ports, and transit agencies.

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**TITLE:** **Regional Transportation Plans**

**REQUIRED BY:** RCW 47.80.030

**PREPARED BY:** Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)

**ADOPTED BY:** RTPO Policy Board and submitted biennially to the Washington State Department of Transportation

**NEXT UPDATE:** Ongoing in all 14 RTPOs

**DESCRIPTION**

- Defines a regional transportation system within each of the RTPO’s boundaries.
- Identifies existing or planned transportation facilities, services, and programs.
- Establishes level of service standards for the regional system including state highways and ferry routes.
  - Recommends strategies for achieving those level of service standards.
- Includes a financial plan that is fiscally constrained and is based on regionally appropriate methodologies, and identifies the most cost-effective facilities, services, and programs.
- Assesses regional development patterns, capital investments, and other measures and trends.
- Sets forth a proposed regional transportation approach, including capital investments, service improvements, programs, and transportation demand management measures.
- Where appropriate, sets forth the relationship of high capacity transportation providers and other public transit providers and establishes responsibility for coordination of services and facilities.

**PURPOSE**

- To coordinate local comprehensive planning under RCW 36.70A with state transportation planning under RCW 47.06.

**TITLE:**                    **High Capacity Transportation Plans**

**REQUIRED BY:**        RCW 47.06.120 and RCW 81.104.060

**PREPARED BY:**        Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and Joint Regional Policy Committees

**APPROVED BY:**        RTAs and County Commissioners

**NEXT UPDATE:**        None; inactive as of 2003

**DESCRIPTION**

- Prior to 2000, the High Capacity Transportation Account was funded by a portion of the motor vehicle excise tax available for public transportation. Currently the Account is unfunded. Any further efforts under these statutes will require funding to be identified by future legislatures.
- Urban transit agencies in coordination with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations continue to develop high capacity transportation plans. Currently these plans are funded with non-state dollars and are not submitted to the State for review and approval.

<u>TITLE:</u>	<b>Local Comprehensive Plans</b>
<u>REQUIRED BY:</u>	RCW 36.70A
<u>PREPARED BY:</u>	Applicable counties and cities
<u>APPROVED BY:</u>	County and city legislative authorities and submitted to the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
<u>NEXT UPDATE:</u>	See next page

DESCRIPTION

- Developed by counties or cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.
- Consists of a map or maps and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the plan.
- Must be an internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent with the future land use map, including the jurisdiction’s financial plans and the plans of adjacent jurisdictions.
- Each comprehensive plan shall include the following:
  - A **land use element** designating the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of uses of land, including population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth.
  - A **housing element** that includes an inventory and analysis of housing needs; policies for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing; an inventory of land available for housing; and provisions for the needs of all economic segments of the community.
  - A **capital facilities plan element** consisting of an inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities; a forecast of future needs; proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities; a six-year financing plan; and a requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short.
  - A **utilities element** consisting of the general and proposed location and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including electrical, telecommunications, and natural gas.
  - Counties shall include a **rural element**, including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources; the rural element shall permit land uses that are compatible with the rural character of such lands and provide for a variety of rural densities.
  - A **transportation element** that implements and is consistent with the land use element. The transportation element shall include (a) land use assumptions used in estimating travel, (b) estimated traffic impacts to state-owned transportation facilities, (c) facilities and service needs, including level of service standards for local, regional, and state transportation facilities and a ten-year traffic forecast, (d) a multiyear financial plan that is coordinated with the Washington State Department of Transportation’s 10-year Improvement and Preservation Program, (e) intergovernmental coordination efforts, (f) demand management strategies, and (g) a pedestrian and bicycle component to identify and designate planned improvements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles.

- The Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Elements are optional, as the state has not provided funding to assist in developing these elements. However, each is addressed in the Growth Management Act goals. If included in the comprehensive plans, these elements should include:
  - An **economic development element** establishing local goals, policies, objectives, and provisions for economic growth and vitality and a high quality of life, including a summary of the local economy and its strengths and weaknesses and policies, programs, and projects to foster economic growth and development and address future needs.
  - A **parks and recreation element** that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element. The element shall include estimates of parks and recreation demand for a 10-year period; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting demand.

#### PURPOSE

Fulfill the requirements of state law for coordinated and planned growth.

#### UPDATE SCHEDULE

The update schedule for counties and cities to take action to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of GMA.

- On or before December 1, 2011, and every seven years thereafter, for Clallam, Clark, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the cities within those counties;
- On or before December 1, 2012, and every seven years thereafter, for Cowlitz, Island, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, and Skamania counties and the cities within those counties;
- On or before December 1, 2013, and every seven years thereafter, for Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Spokane, and Yakima counties and the cities within those counties; and
- On or before December 1, 2014, and every seven years thereafter, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties and the cities within those counties.

**TITLE:**                    **Transit Development Plans**

**REQUIRED BY:**        RCW 35.58.2795 and RCW 36.57A.070 (requires a comprehensive plan for each new Public Transportation Benefit Area)

**PREPARED BY:**        Local transit authorities and regional transit authorities

**APPROVED BY:**        Local transit boards and submitted to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

**NEXT UPDATE:**        Due annually each April

**DESCRIPTION**

- Must be consistent with local, regional, and state plans.
- Addresses how the local public transportation system will meet state and local planning priorities for public transportation.
- Includes proposed capital improvements.
- Addresses significant operating changes.
- Identifies certified Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTECs) as priority areas for new service and facility investments.
- Includes a six-year financial plan.
- Requires one or more public hearings prior to the annual submittal of the transit development plans to WSDOT.
- Requires review by the WSDOT to determine:
  - The completeness of service to be offered and the economic viability of the transit development plan;
  - Whether the plan integrates the proposed transportation system with existing transportation modes and systems that serve the benefit area;
  - Whether the plan coordinates that area’s system and service with nearby public transportation systems;
  - Whether such plan is eligible for matching state or federal funds.

**PURPOSE**

- Ensure consistency of public transportation services with local, regional, and state plans.
- Target resources to meet prioritized needs.

**TITLE:** **Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements and Industrial Developments**

**REQUIRED BY:** RCW 53.20.010, 53.20.020, and 53.25.090

**PREPARED BY:** Port Districts

**APPROVED BY:** Port District Commission

**NEXT UPDATE:** No statutory requirement; updates are conducted by individual port districts as needed

**DESCRIPTION**

- Conducted by individual port districts.
- Identifies current and future capital needs.
- Includes a plan or description of how the port intends to implement and finance improvements.
- Port districts that have an airport must be consistent with Federal Aviation Administration guidelines and design standards in their comprehensive planning process.
- Port districts must comply with the Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW).
- Requires one or more public hearings prior to adoption.

**PURPOSE**

- Communicate and document the basis of the port district expenditures.
- In some cases, meet planning criteria required for obtaining state or federal matching funds.

**TITLE:**                    **Airport Master Plans / Layout Plans**

**REQUIRED BY:**        Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration, to address long-term airport facility needs and justify development of capital improvement project funding requests.

**PREPARED BY:**        Airport owners

**APPROVED BY:**        Airport owners; Federal Aviation Administration, and WSDOT

**NEXT UPDATE:**        Master plans are usually updated every five years; however, this is not a fixed period and can be lengthened or shortened depending on the extent of change occurring. Interim update work is often published in the form of an Airport Layout Plan.

**DESCRIPTION**

- Prepared by individual airports as needed to maintain safety and qualify for state and/or federal grant funds.
- Identifies current and future airport activity and capital needs.
- Provides a development plan for meeting short-range and long-term needs.
- A plan usually consists of the following components:
  - Inventory to identify existing conditions;
  - Aviation demand forecast to identify future growth;
  - Demand-capacity analysis to assess improvement needs;
  - Land use plan to evaluate on-airport and off-airport issues;
  - Utility and facility plans to accommodate anticipated growth; and
  - Capital improvement plan that identifies needed projects and how they will be funded over a five, ten, to twenty-year period.

**PURPOSE**

- Guide future airport development that will meet safety needs and satisfy aviation demand in a financially feasible manner, while resolving aviation, environmental, and socioeconomic issues existing in the community.