



WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN (WTP) UPDATE

Joint Transportation Committee
June 18, 2024

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE WTP

Per RCW 47.01.071

Since 2010, the Commission develops and issues Washington Transportation Plan (WTP), a comprehensive, balanced plan addressing local, regional, and state transportation needs submitted to the governor and legislature every four years.

The plan must, at a minimum:

- Establish a vision for the development of the statewide transportation system;
- identify significant statewide transportation policy issues;
- recommend statewide transportation policies and strategies to the legislature.



Debbie Young, Chair
San Juan County



Jim Restucci, Vice-Chair
Yakima County



Shiv Batra
King County



Nicole Grant
King County



JC Baldwin
Chelan County



Roy Jennings
Clark County



Kelly Fukai
Spokane County

WTP UPDATE

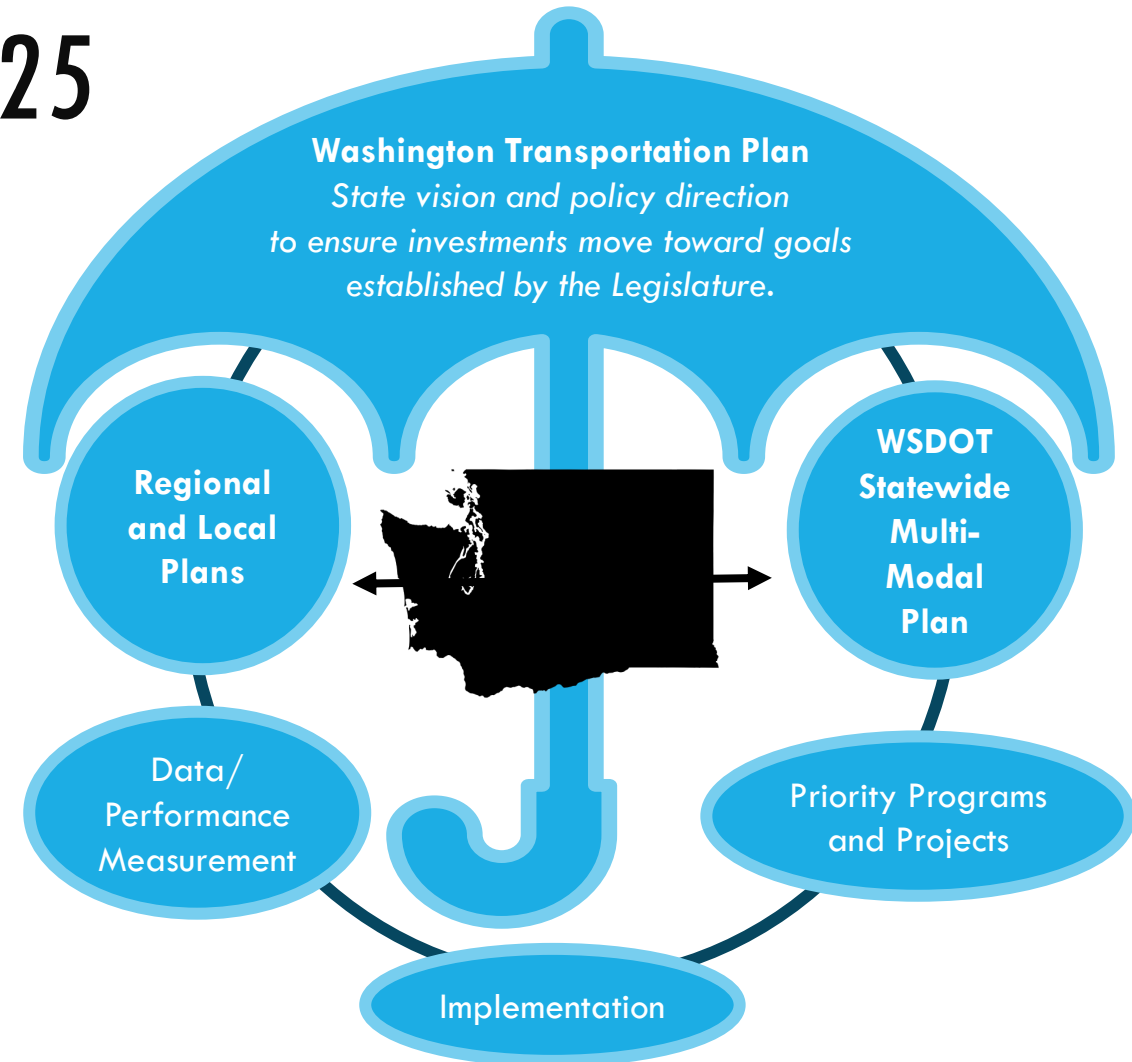
2023 Washington State Legislature directed* the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) to update the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) as follows:

- Conduct ***stakeholder outreach***, gathering input, and framing the outreach around the current plan's policy construct and high-level priorities, the 2022 transportation revenue package, and recently enacted significant policy legislation;
- Report ***outreach findings*** and results to the joint transportation committee for review and input;
- ***Restructure the plan*** to (i) primarily focus on high level policy priorities within the six transportation policy goals under RCW 47.04.280 and (ii) align policies, strategies, and objectives with the interests of stakeholders and legislators;
- Gather ***further input from stakeholders*** and the joint transportation committee on the restructured plan's format and content; and
- ***Finalize the updated plan***, based upon input from stakeholders and the joint transportation committee.

*Engrossed House Bill HB1125 (2023)

WASHINGTON STATE'S LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - 2025

- **A statewide transportation policy plan** – the only state plan that connects the transportation dots at all jurisdictional levels and for all modes.
- **Meets Washington's planning requirements** – supports meeting federal planning requirements.
- **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

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

Maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services.

Environment & Health

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



Safety

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

Stewardship

Continuously improve the **quality, effectiveness, and efficiency** of the transportation system.

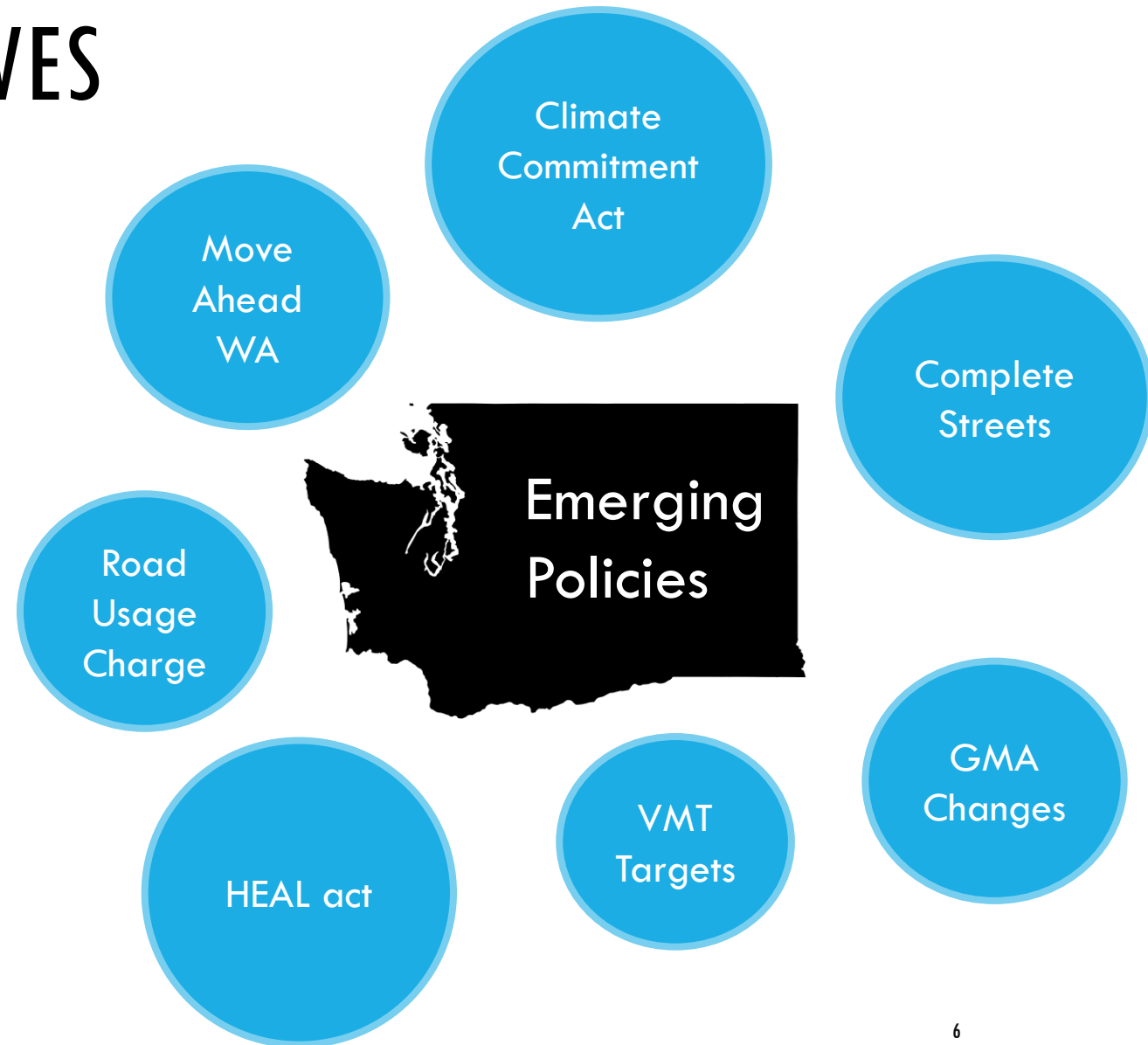
RCW 47.04.280 – Transportation System Policy Goals



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

RECENT POLICY INITIATIVES

- Since the last WTP (2018), there have been notable state legislation, emerging policy priorities, and new guidance.
- The WTP update offers the opportunity to align the WTP with the transportation goals AND new policy direction.
- Use “Policy Pillars” to connect WTP to current and emerging issues.



“POLICY PILLARS” CAN CONNECT GOALS TO NEW PRIORITIES

Sustainable Funding

Long-term funding solutions adequately addresses current and future transportation maintenance/operations, preservation and safety needs.

Climate & Resiliency

A future transportation system that is resilient and helps to mitigate and lessen the impacts of climate change.

Connecting Communities

Transportation investments reconnect communities, close gaps in the network, improve access to opportunity, and improve quality of life.

Equity in Movement

Transportation planning and investments support inclusion of historically under-represented communities.








Transportation Technology

Transportation technology supports the achievement of policy goals.

CROSS-WALKING GOALS TO “POLICY PILLARS”

		Transportation System Policy Goals (RCW 47.04.280)					
		Preservation	Safety	Stewardship	Mobility	Economic Vitality	Environment & Health
Policy Pillars	Sustainable Funding						
	Climate & Resiliency						
	Connecting Communities						
	Equity in Movement						
	Transportation Technology						

EXAMPLE - USING 2040 POLICIES & HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGIES

Policy Pillar	Example WTP 2040 Policy	Transportation Policy Goal(s)
Transportation Technology	Incentivize the use of clean technology and energy efficiency in the freight sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Environment & Health Economic Vitality
Equity in Movement	Work to ensure that all people have access to their daily needs with dignity and independence, regardless of their ability or income and without discrimination based on race or other identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility Safety Environment & Health Stewardship

STATEWIDE LISTENING SESSIONS

LISTENING SESSIONS

WITH REGIONAL & LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS

- The Commission held **six** listening sessions across the state in April and May focused on transportation professionals and partners.
- Purpose was to discuss statewide planning priorities and hear about short and long-term challenges and opportunities
- Meetings were virtual with one hybrid meeting (South Central)



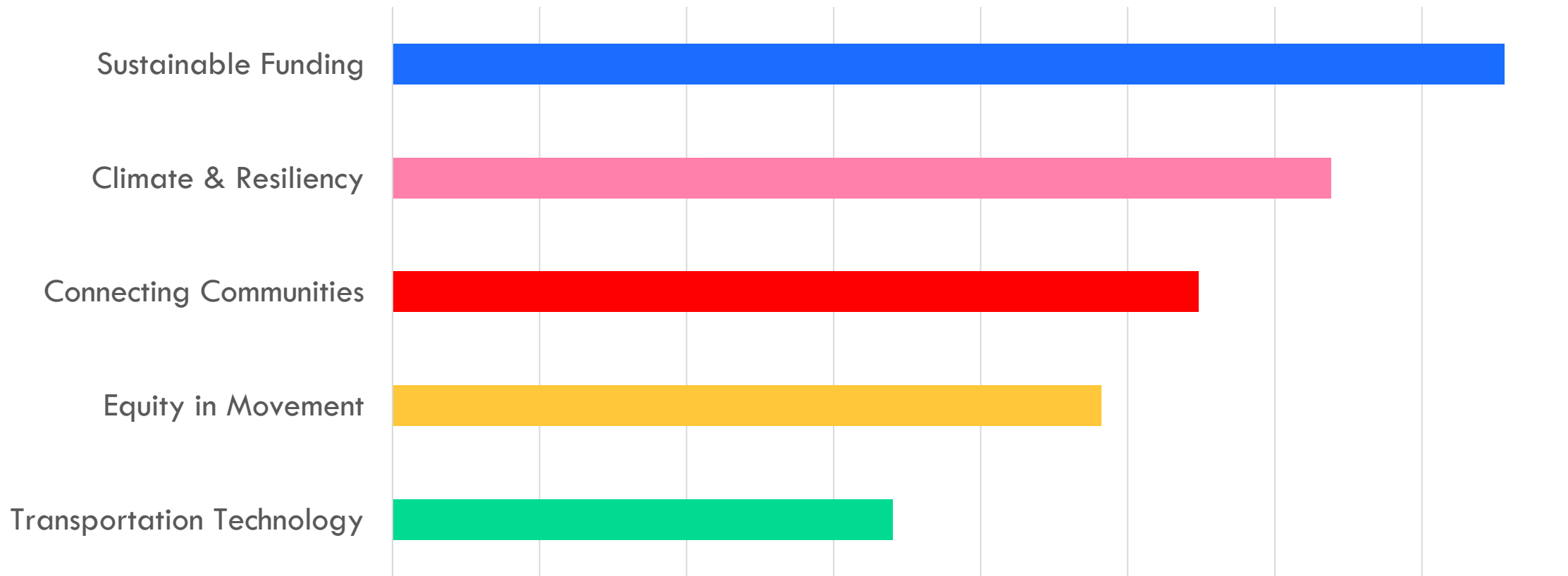
LISTENING SESSIONS: KEY THEMES

Several consistent messages across the state:

- Support for using the Policy Pillars to add specificity and focus to the WTP goals.
- Sustainable funding is necessary to keep the state of good repair at a minimum and to produce the safe and livable communities we really want.
- Funding challenges are hindering resilience efforts, especially in the rural areas.
- Connecting Communities means economic connectivity – travel options to jobs, transportation of goods, connections to services, but in rural areas it also means public health and safety – lifeline connections.
- Technology was consistently seen as an important opportunity across the state.

INPUT FROM LISTENING SESSIONS - PRIORITIES

During the recent listening sessions held across the state, we heard general agreement with the policy pillars, and an understanding that sustainable funding was critical.



Weighted results based on all responses from six regional meetings

INPUT FROM LISTENING SESSIONS

Common themes related to long-term transportation challenges and opportunities

CHALLENGES

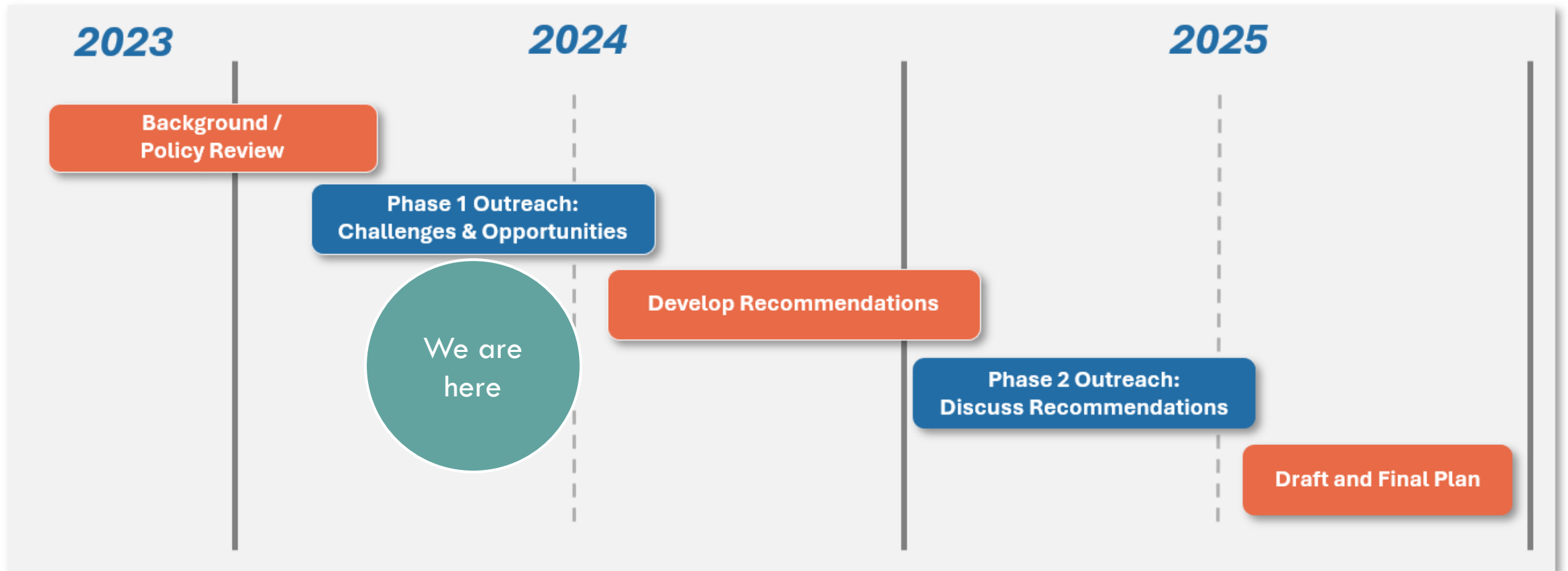
- *Failing infrastructure*
- *Climate change*
- *Affordability/land use/growth*
- *Workforce*
- *Electrification*
- *Funding (gas tax) and cost escalation*
- *Increased safety challenges (fatal collisions)*
- *Balancing expansion and preservation*
- *Cross-border connections*
- *Maintaining connectivity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

NEXT STEPS FOR WTP

WTP UPDATE SCHEDULE



UPCOMING MEETINGS & OUTREACH

- Statewide Topic Meetings in late August
- Focused meetings with Community Based Organizations, Tribal Nations, and others this summer
- Launching an on-line public poll in early 2025 to correspond with Phase 2 Outreach
- Next JTC briefing likely November or December 2024

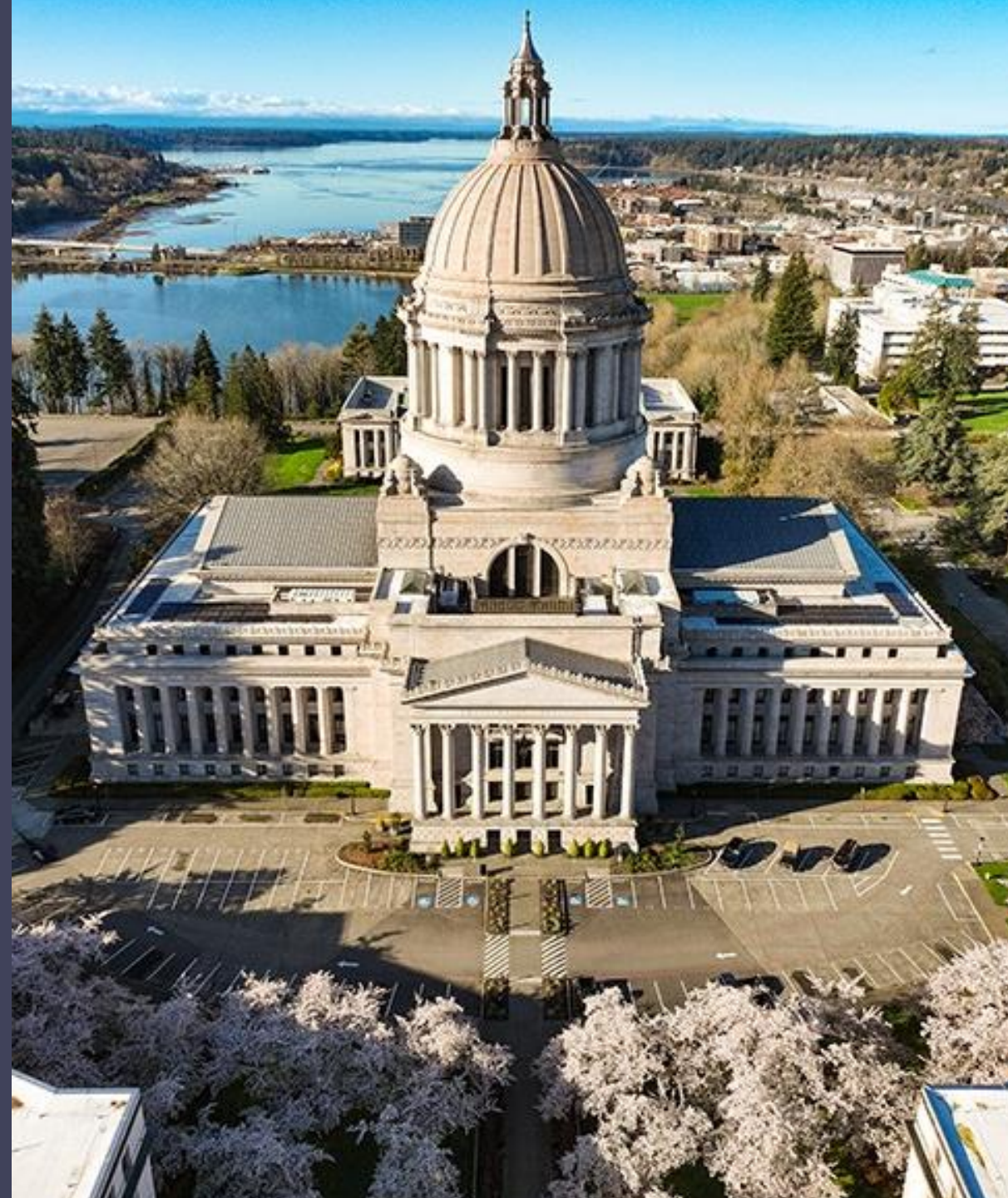
SCOPING A WEST COAST TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PLAN

MANDATE - SCOPING A WEST COAST NETWORK PLAN

2023 Washington State Legislature directed* the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) as follows:

- \$75,000 provided to carry out an initial assessment and scoping effort to determine the feasibility of creating a future west coast transportation network plan.
- Intent for the plan is to leverage and align west coast efforts to reduce our collective carbon footprint, improve freight and passenger mobility, and strengthen west coast resiliency.
- This effort must be carried out in partnership with the Oregon and California Transportation Commissions and State Department of Transportations from each state.
- Complete by December 2025

*Engrossed House Bill HB1125 (2023)



FEATURES OF A WEST COAST TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PLAN

The West Coast Transportation Network Plan should:

- Contemplate **cross-border, long-term coordination and planning** aimed at creating a holistic West Coast transportation network that considers the needs and investments of each state.
- Identify opportunities to **increase clean transport across the three states**, reduce our collective carbon footprint, improve freight and passenger mobility, and strengthen resiliency.
- Assess **current state activities and coordinates state plans** that work towards the establishment of clean transportation in the air, on the highways, and on rail lines moving freight and passengers.
- **Identify resiliency risks** along the west coast and works towards a strategic, long-term plan to address them, given significant portions of the highway, bridge, and rail networks in Oregon, California, and Washington are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, fires, and landslides.

TIMELINE

Spring 2023

Washington State Legislature Directive to the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) to carry out scoping effort for the feasibility of a future West Coast Transportation Network Plan.

May 2024

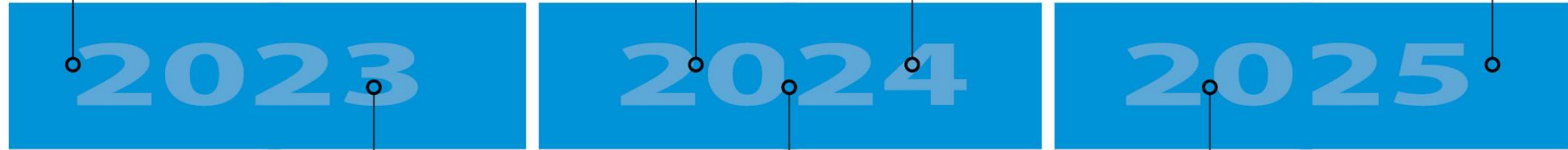
Interviews of State Departments of Transportation (WSDOT, ODOT, and Caltrans) as well as FHWA region administrators.

September 2024

Tri-State workshop for DOTs and Commissions to discuss the challenges and opportunities of conducting a West Coast Transportation Network Plan and inform scoping effort.

Late 2025

Final West Coast Transportation Network Plan Scoping Study



September 2023

Tri-State Transportation Commission meeting with Washington, Oregon and California discussing the scoping study.

May-July 2024

Check-ins with State Transportation Commissions (WSTC, OTC, CATC) and CalSTA.

Early 2025

Draft West Coast Transportation Network Plan Scoping Study

INITIAL REACTIONS FROM INTERVIEWS

Collaboration

- Ad-hoc, organic staff-level collaboration is working well
- Collaboration around truck parking and electrification (West Coast Electric Highway)
- Look to other examples (east coast) and I-10, I-15, I-80 coalitions
- Tri-state Commission meetings are important to build upon

Desired Outcomes

- Attracting funding
- Testing innovative ideas
- Knowledge sharing
- Defining a multimodal network and identifying critical investment needs
- Alignment of vision is good, but identifying tangible outcomes is more important
- Important to right-size the effort

Priority Areas

- Electrification and charging (truck and passenger)
- Freight and goods movement (including truck parking)
- Climate and resiliency
- Interstate travel (I-5, aviation, and high-speed rail)
- ITS and technology
- Preservation and maintenance
- Coordination on long-term sustainable funding

NEXT STEPS

- Commission staff briefings in June/July
- Tri-state Commission meeting and workshop in Fresno, CA, in September
- Draft recommendations in early 2025

THANK YOU

Jon Overman
joverman@camsys.com
206-914-0606

Paula Reeves
ReevePa@wstc.wa.gov
360-705-7118

Stay tuned for more info on future topic-focused meetings and opportunities to provide feedback online at:

www.wstc.wa.gov/wtp/washington-transportation-plan