

# Identifying the State Role in Public Transportation



**BRIEFING:**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 23, 2010**

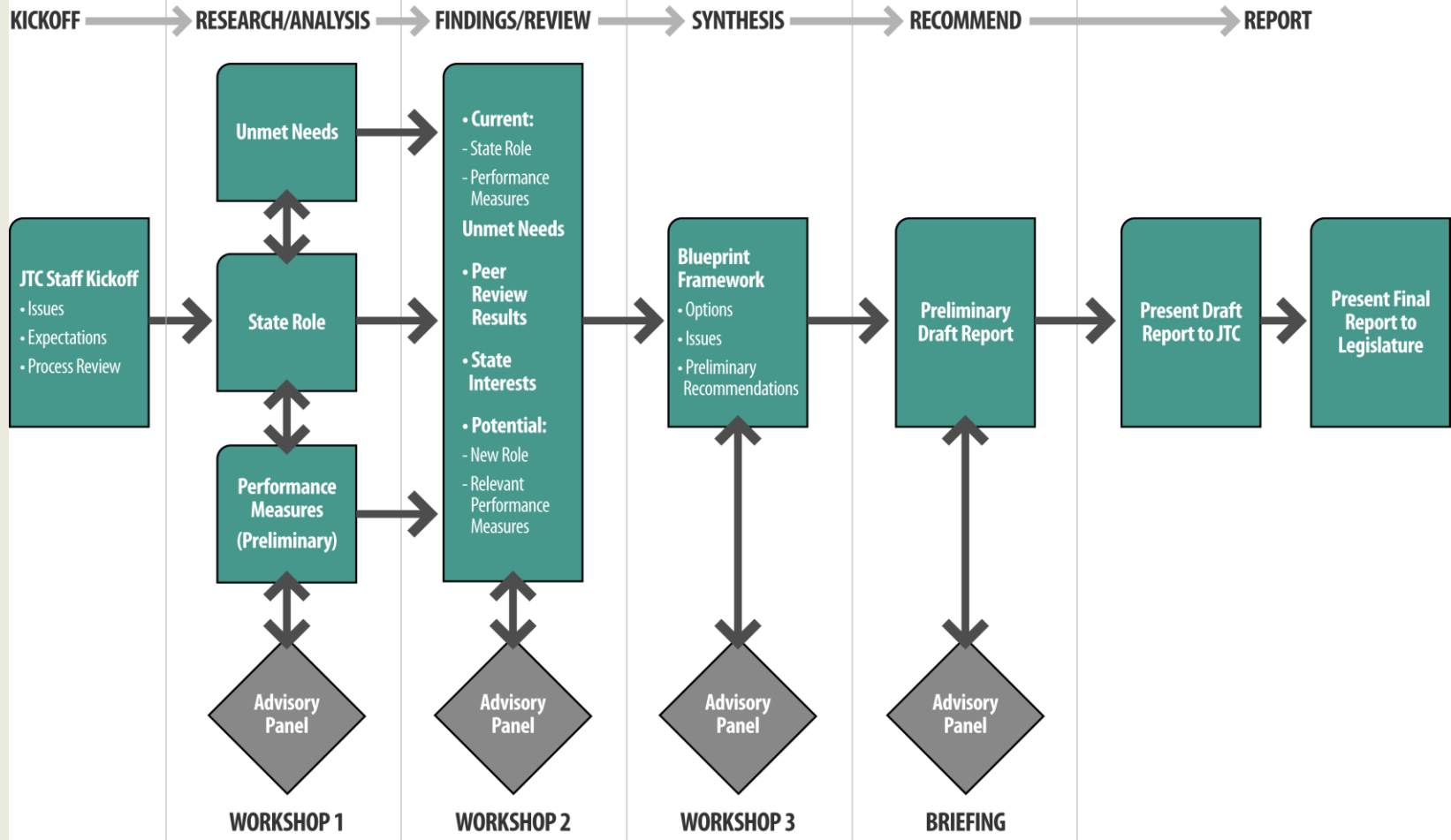
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# Purpose of Today's Briefing



- Introductions
- Overview
  - Project process and timeline
  - Focus of each Advisory Panel Workshop
- Summary
  - Key themes from one-on-one interviews with Advisory Panel members

# Process Overview & Timeline



# Approach



- **Research & Analysis**
  - Create common understanding of current state role
  - Identify and assess unmet needs
  - Identify current state, federal and local performance measures and reporting requirements
  - Peer review to provide context and comparison
- **Synthesis**
  - Synthesize findings, explore potential state interests and role
  - Analyze role of measures and linkage to state interests and role
- **Recommendations**
  - Develop Blueprint informed by research, analysis and input from Advisory Panel



## Four Overarching Themes

### Responses show:

- Mix of issues
  - Some are common
  - Some related to location
- Specific differences between urban and rural experiences

## Advisory Panel One-on-Ones

1. One size does not fit all
2. Focus on the big picture
3. Meeting state goals
4. Funding

# Theme #1: One size does not fit all



- Need a mix of strategies, goals, roles and programs
- Large versus small agency programs
  - Serving different types of markets
  - Address different types of needs
- Urban versus rural programs
  - There are rural needs in western Washington
  - There are urban needs in eastern Washington
- Public and private program options

# Theme #2: Focus on the Big Picture



- Emphasize multi-modal infrastructure investments
- Provide intra-community & intercity connectivity
- Support connectivity between services and modes
- Advocate/support social equity programs to meet basic mobility needs – medical, education, transit dependent
- Plan for the future (rail corridor preservation and passenger only ferries)

# Theme #3: Meeting State Goals



- Focus on public transportation's role in managing the overall state transportation system
  - Mobility
  - Economy
  - Environment
- Reduce barriers to ensure cost effective public transportation
  - Speed and reliability
  - Policies and programs to reduce operating costs
  - Federal government coordination – Medicaid program changes
- Land use and facility siting – urban and rural issues



# Theme #4: Funding

## Big Themes

- **Sustainability** – balance public service/economy/environment with appropriate/adequate funding
- **Coordination** - develop a coordinated program that leverages state dollars
- **Funding flexibility**
  - ✦ 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment flexibility
  - ✦ Capital and operations

## Variety of Other Ideas

- Technology improvements to enhance operating effectiveness
- New facilities and joint use oriented approaches
- Potential policy revisions
- Clear/targeted/funded state grant program
- State advocacy role

# Some Observations

## Mobility

- Reduced service is affecting mobility
- Health and Human Service and Rural community conundrum

## Land Use

- Both an urban and rural transportation issue

## Funding

- State authorized local funding doesn't work for all areas.
- Funding predictability is key

# Interesting Innovations



- **Intersystem connectivity** – Island/Skagit/Whatcom. Pacific/Gray's Harbor. Reduced revenue is straining low productivity connections
- **Ingenuity** – Mason Transit used school buses to supplement vehicle needs; Ben Franklin provides out of service vans to local organizations
- **Growing service** – Senior/disabled services can be impetus to developing regular transit programs
- **Joint development & use** – Western Washington University park and ride open to everyone

# Comments and Questions



- We understand that this study is one part of an overall assessment of the state's transportation program.

## **Our Goal**

To develop a set of recommendations on the state's future role in public transportation.