

# Joint Transportation Committee Identifying the State Role in Public Transportation



## JTC BRIEFING DRAFT FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

DECEMBER 8, 2010  
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

# Presentation Overview



- I. Project Purpose and Background
- II. Key Findings
- III. Recommendations
- IV. Framework for Decision Making
- V. Final Comments

# Study Purpose and Background



**The Washington State Legislature wishes to identify the state role in public transportation and to develop a statewide blueprint for public transportation to guide state investments in public transportation.**

# Questions for Washington State



- What is the State's ***interest*** in public transportation?
- What ***goals*** do we want to achieve?
- What is the right ***role*** for Washington State?
- How do we ***measure*** whether we're achieving our goals?

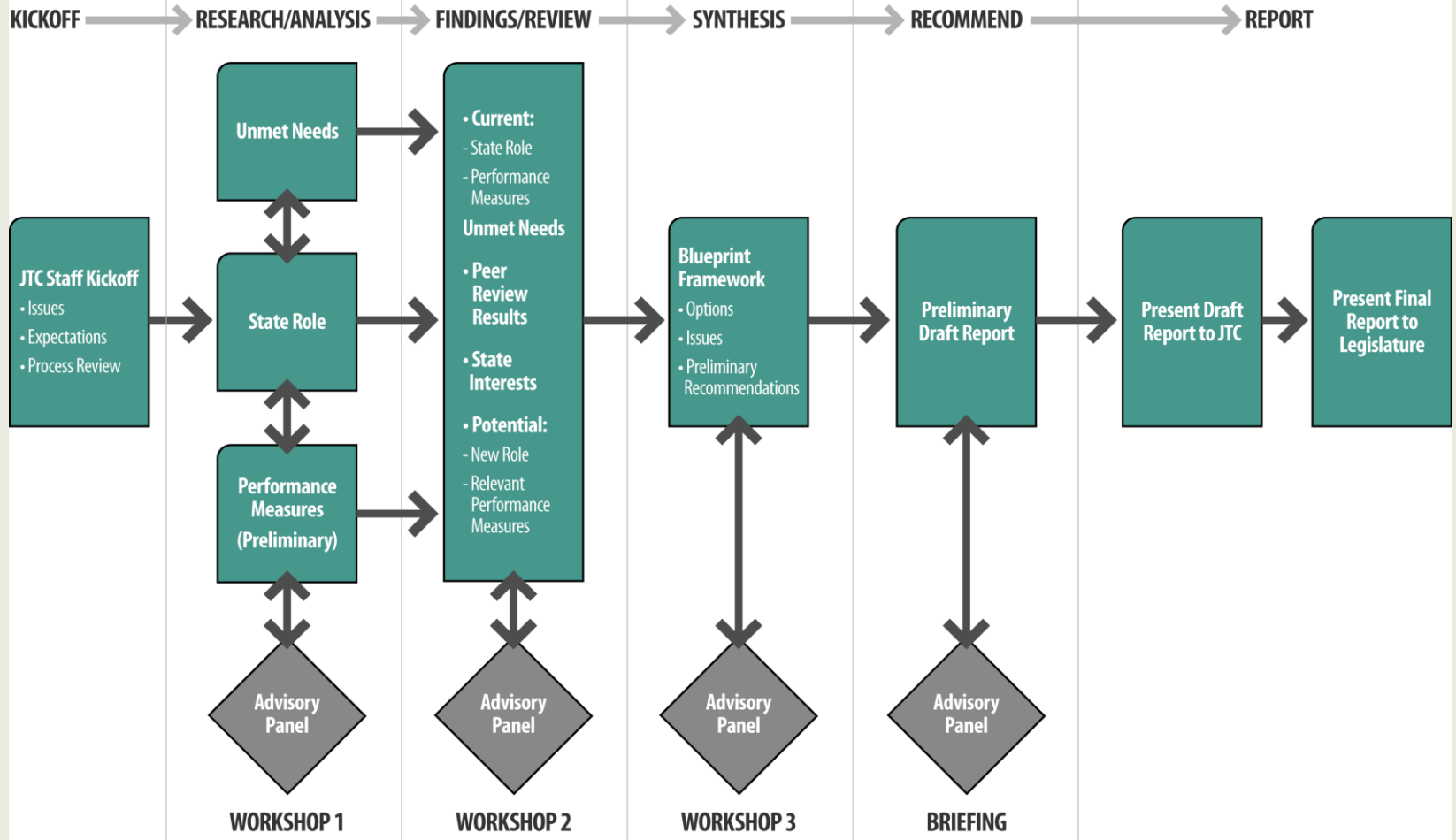
# Definition of Public Transportation



For purposes of this study:

- Is available to any person upon payment of fare – if charged
- Cannot be reserved for the private or exclusive use of one individual or group
- It shall also include:
  - Special needs transportation
  - Private bus companies
  - Vanpools
  - Bus and van services provided by private employers
- “Public” refers to the access to the service – not the ownership of the system providing the service

# Process Overview & Timeline



# Public Transportation Advisory Panel



- Appointed by the JTC
- Provided information and input at key stages
- A 29-member Panel representing broad interests
  - Legislators
  - Public transit and other transportation providers (special needs, private)
  - Transportation planning professionals
  - Major employers
  - Transit users

# Advisory Panel Workshops



- The primary objective to build a common level of understanding and to solicit input on the research generated and issues identified throughout the study process
- The Panel met four times in a series of half-day workshops
- They discussed:
  - The State's current role and potential future role in public transportation
  - Emerging trends and issues facing public transportation providers and users
  - Performance management and measures
- The meetings were public, materials and notes were posted on the study website and time for public comment was provided



# Initial Advisory Panel Observations



- *Focus on the big picture*—Integrate public transportation more systematically into statewide planning to better integrate systems and improve connectivity for all users.
- *Focus on meeting State goals*—Show how public transportation helps to achieve State goals, such as mobility and the environment.
- *One size does not fit all*—Acknowledge that the State is diverse and includes a mix of large and small, urban and rural communities and issues which require a flexible approach.
- *Funding*—Address the need for stability, greater flexibility, and better coordination of resources.
- *Special services*—Strive to ensure that the basic mobility needs of persons dependent on public transportation (elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, etc.) are met.

# Draft Final Report



- Draft Final Report submitted to JTC November 29, 2010
- White Papers and a Preliminary Draft Report were circulated to the Public Transportation Advisory Panel

## Identifying the State Role in Public Transportation Draft Final Report



Submitted to: State of Washington Joint Transportation Committee  
November 2010



# Key Findings



# Current State Role



## Policy/Planning

- Authorization of Transit Agencies
- WTP
- GMA
- CTR
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## Providing Services

- State Ferries
- Intercity Bus and Rail
- HOV System
- Park-and-ride System

## Funding

- State Authorized Local Tax Options
- Federal Funds
- State Multimodal Account
- Other Direct State Funding
  - Ferries
  - Intercity Bus and Rail
  - HOV system

## Oversight/Coordination

- TDPs
- ACCT
- Gray Notebook
- Annual Summary of Public Transportation

# General Findings



- Demand for public transportation continues to grow
  - Outpacing population and employment growth
  - Special needs transportation requires greater amounts of funding
  - Demographic changes are placing greater pressures in rural areas
- Funding continues to decline
  - I-695 (MVET) reduced the State's funding role in public transit
  - Economic recession severely affecting sales tax revenues, the primary public transit funding mechanism
- Connectivity between systems/modes is a concern
- State performance management system is focused on State operated services
- Public transportation reporting is dispersed and not tied to State goals

# Key Finding



## Premise

The State has a vital interest in assuring a healthy, comprehensive and integrated public transportation system

## Key Finding

There is a need for multimodal solutions that maximize the capacity and efficiency of State's transportation system

## Conclusion

The State's institutional and reporting frameworks are not optimized for decision makers to consider *public transportation* in a comprehensive manner

# Recommendations



Begin a “culture change” process to more systematically integrate public transportation issues, decisions and investments into the overall State transportation decision making structure

# Moving Toward a Multimodal Perspective



1. ***Transportation Integration*** - Integrating public transportation into regional and statewide planning
2. ***Policy Refinement*** - Developing and promoting policies (and removing barriers) to encourage the use of all public transportation modes
3. ***Refocus Resources*** - Assessing the adequacy of funding sources and developing new funding strategies to address State concerns (which may not be the same as the local concerns)
4. ***Align Reporting*** - Aligning reporting and data collection to provide a more comprehensive and useful picture of transit
5. ***Focus on Performance*** - Establishing a consistent set of measures to assess public transportation system performance



# 1. Transportation Integration



- In each WSDOT region or sub-region, institute a new regional integration role to act as a “change agent” to:
  - Better integrate public transportation into planning and programming activities
  - Foster greater partnerships between the State and public transportation providers
  - Help identify and address intersystem and intermodal connectivity gaps, access and mobility needs, etc.
- Integrate public transportation into WSDOT’s “way of doing business” and drive a more multimodal approach

## 2. Policy Refinement



- Develop, enhance and revise policies to:
  - Promote the use of public transportation
  - Maximize its effectiveness
  - Eliminate barriers to its use
- Broaden the essential public facilities definition to include elements of public transportation
- Ensure State facilities are sited within easy access to public transportation services, where appropriate
- Develop incentives and policies to encourage partnerships between public and private providers

# 3. Refocus Resources



- Assess the adequacy and level of current funding sources
- Re-evaluate the focus of existing State funding
- Provide new, more flexible funding sources to meet State needs and priorities
- Specific examples:
  - Focus Regional Mobility Fund to target evolving priorities
  - Provide funding predictability for health & human/rural services
  - Authorize new local options for transit to mitigate sales tax volatility
  - New flexible sources – sales tax on gas, alternative energy based sources, future toll revenue flexibility to address public transportation services in congested corridors

# 4. Align Reporting



Create a new, bottoms-up, performance reporting process that builds off existing information and includes more issue and trend analysis

- Align data collection with the federal process
- Consolidate public transportation planning and reporting processes
- Focus on identifying overall trends for a more useful and comprehensive picture of public transportation

## 4. Align Reporting (continued)



Broaden and refocus the current annual report on public transportation to:

- Encompass *all* public transportation services
- Build off existing reporting - draw from *existing* data/information sources (e.g., federal transit data, Gray Notebook, CTR reports, etc.)
- Focus the report as a more analytic assessment
- Target information around State transportation goals

# 5. Focus on Performance



## “The Cost Effectiveness Question”

- Advisory Panel spent considerable time discussing
- There is no one measure that gives a complete picture
- Measure(s) need to be applied consistently to all services
- Should the State decide cost effectiveness is an appropriate measure for guiding decisions, it should be applied to all elements of the public transportation system

## 5. Focus on Performance (continued)



- Develop a consistent set of measures applied to all state, regional and local modes
- Integrate measures into the State's transportation reporting framework to identify trends for policy makers
- A set of measures, generally accepted by the Advisory Panel are included in the report. It is expected these measures will be refined over time
- Expand the OFM Transportation Attainment Report to include a more comprehensive public transportation picture

# OFM Transportation Attainment Report



## What the report does

- Explicitly links measures to goals
- Measures trends and progress
- Relies on a few, meaningful measures
- Includes context and analysis to explain trends
- User friendly and easy to understand

## How the report can be improved

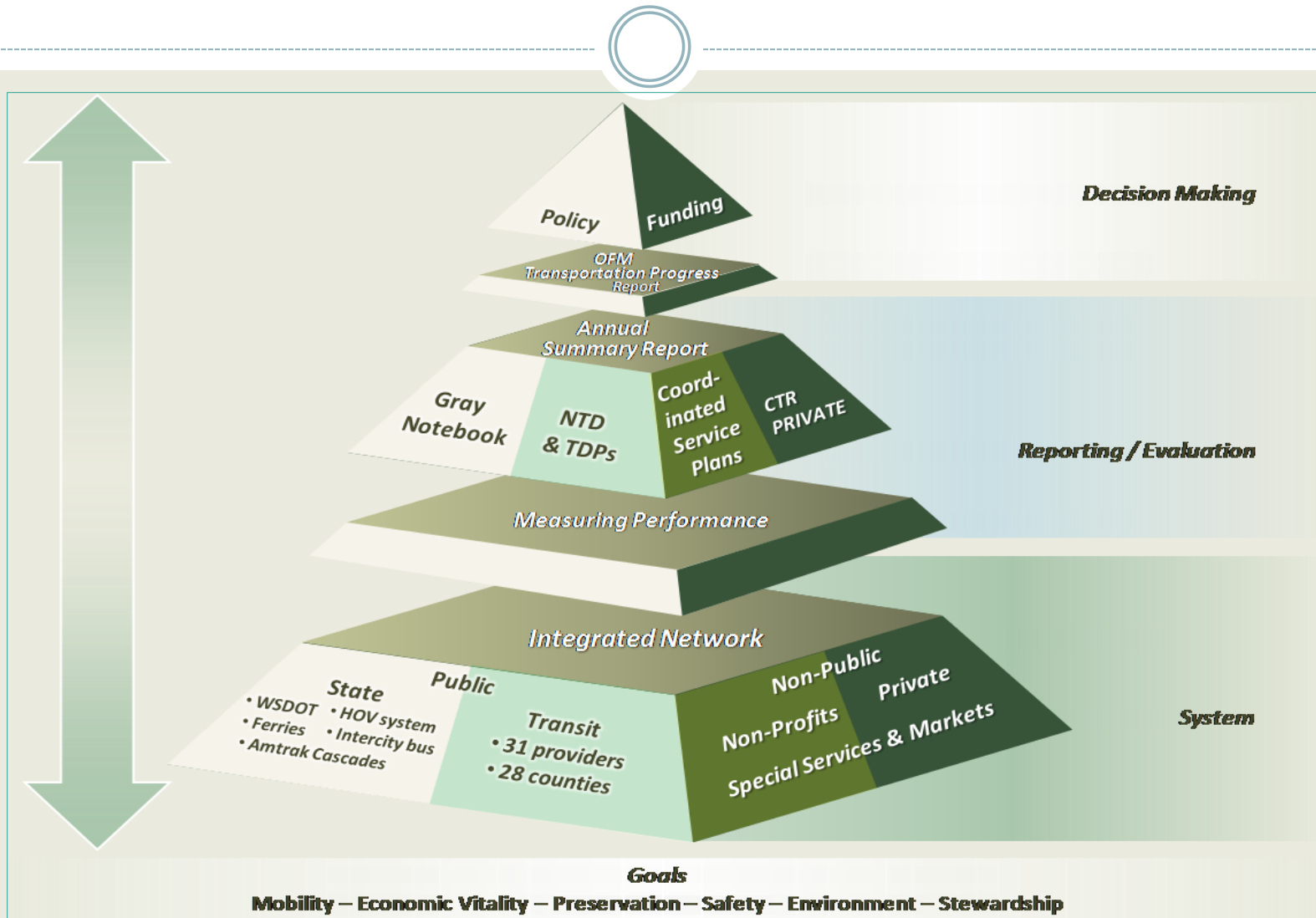
- Should be broadened to include public transportation services beyond those operated by the State
- Should hold all services to a similar level of accountability



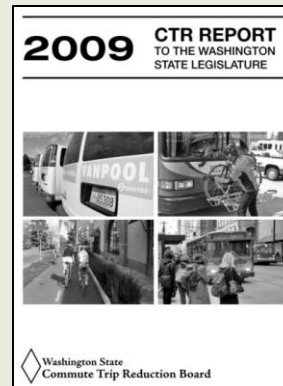
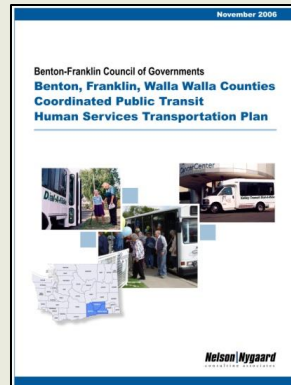
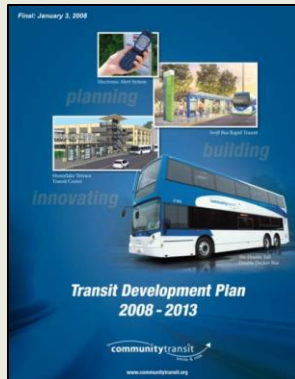
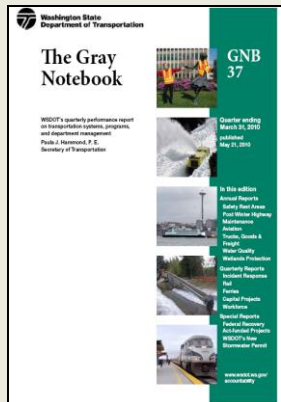
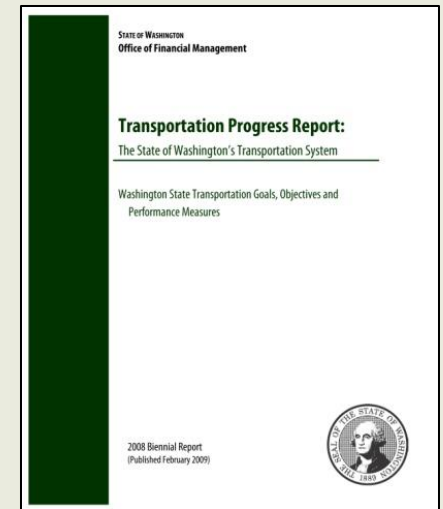
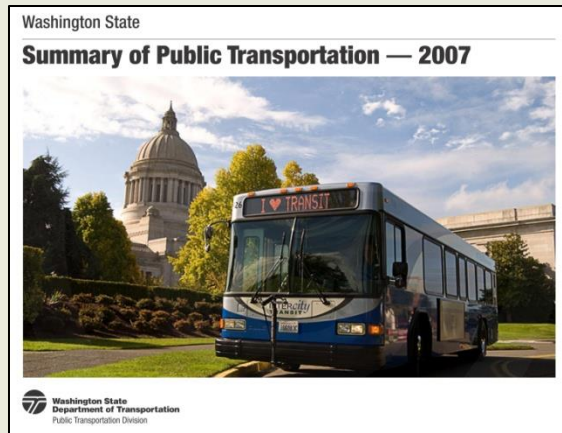
# Framework for Decision Making



# An Integrated Framework for Decision Making



# Reporting and Evaluation Framework



# Final Comments



Comments on the Draft Final Report

Comments from JTC Advisory Panel Members

# Draft Report Comments and Enhancements



- King County Metro letter
- Incorporating JTC Staff data and context enhancements to the Appendices

# JTC Participant Observations



# Comments and Questions

