

# **Sustainable transportation vision; climate change solutions**

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***Beyond Clean Cars and Fuels: Transportation and Land-Use Planning in a Carbon-Constrained World***  
VMT reduction panel presentation at New Partners for Smart Growth Conference  
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## What's the transportation-climate change connection?

- Emissions generated from Washington's roads and waterways combined with the state's airports are responsible for almost 50% of greenhouse gas emissions produced in Washington.
- WSDOT's job is to keep people and goods moving by operating and improving our transportation system safely and efficiently—we also have a responsibility to relieve congestion, preserve our infrastructure and to be good environmental stewards.
- That means doing what we can to reduce the effects our operations have on our state's environment, economy and quality of life.

## **Balanced approach to reducing transportation effects on climate change**

WSDOT's multifaceted approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions includes—

- reducing vehicle miles traveled
- improving vehicle technology
- lowering the carbon content of fuels
- improving the efficiency of the transportation system

It will take all of these strategies to adequately reduce emissions.

# **Sustainable transportation choices**

**Conserving resources—reducing climate change—  
preserving our environment**

**WSDOT is exploring more sustainable ways to operate, build  
and maintain our transportation infrastructure. At the same  
time, we continue fulfilling our environmental commitment to:**

- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Enhance our natural environment and
- Come up with transportation solution that are resourceful, responsible and reasonable for our environment and the communities we serve.

## Pursuing more sustainable transportation

**Basing our efforts on science**—we have established reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled and are using or developing credible methodologies to measure our progress. Measuring and reporting results focuses multifaceted efforts on a shared bottom line.

**Taking a balanced approach**—we are offering a menu of choices to help engage a diverse array of people and industries in the effort to achieve our goals.

**Applying a strategic approach**—because there is no one-size-fits all solution, we are using scalable options that provide communities and industries flexibility to deliver measurable results.

## Past Legislative highlights

### State's greenhouse gas emission reduction limits

1990 levels by 2020

25% below 1990 levels by 2035

50% below 1990 levels by 2050

*State's baseline = 94.6 million metric tons CO2 equivalent*

### 2008 ESSHB 2815 Sec. 8: Reduce per person vehicle miles traveled

18% by 2020

30% by 2035

50% by 2050

*Baseline = 75 billion VMT 1990 levels by 2020*

*(excluding vehicles over 10,000 lbs)*

# Transportation Implementation Working Group

*Formed under Governor Gregoire's Climate Action Team*

- Co-chaired by Katy Taylor, Dennis McLerran and Lon Wyrick.
- Developed strategies to implement original Climate Advisory recommendations.
- Addressed legislative requirements (ESSHB 2815 Sec. 8).
- Identified “most promising” greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled reduction strategies.
- Collaborated with a diverse variety of transportation stakeholders.

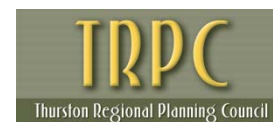
# Transportation Working Group Representation

State and local governments including Departments of Ecology, Puget Sound Clean Air, Thurston County, City of Seattle, and WSDOT.

Transit participation from Washington State Transit Association, Pierce Transit, and King County Metro.

Industry groups such as WA Auto Dealers Association, Weyerhaeuser, WA Trucking Associations, and AAA.

Non-profit and environmental groups such as Transportation Choices Coalition and Sierra Club.



## Working on key recommendations

*Long-term and short-term vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas reduction recommendations from the Transportation Working Group under the Governor's Climate Action Team include three broad categories:*

- Transit, ridesharing and commuter choice programs.
- Compact and transit oriented development.
- Transportation funding and pricing strategies.

## Additional strategies

- Improve/promote rail
- Enhance transportation system management.
- Improve efficiency and retrofit diesel vehicles.
- Smart charging, vehicle to grid, evaluate costs.
- Implement a low carbon fuel standard or other alternative.

# **Governor, Legislators set benchmarks; state agencies expected to lead reduction bandwagon**

- **New laws support ongoing efforts**

  - 2SHB 1481 Electric vehicles

  - SSB 6088 Commute trip reduction for state agencies

  - E2SSB 5560 Agency climate leadership

# **Governor, Legislators set benchmarks; state agencies expected to lead reduction efforts**

## **▪ Executive order—**

**The order directs a consortium of state agencies to work with the Governor's office to—**

- explore establishing a statewide low carbon fuel standard;
- seek funding to establish a West Coast electric corridor along I-5;
- provide citizens with better transportation options;
- continue working with the Western Climate Initiative and prepare to participate in a federal cap-and-trade system when adopted;
- estimate current and future statewide vehicle miles traveled;
- evaluate potential changes to the vehicle miles traveled benchmarks to address low or no emission vehicles; and
- develop additional strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector.

# Transportation Investments Addressing Climate Change

## Governor supports transportation investments that focus on—

- Putting people to work
- Providing transportation choices for Washington citizens
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

## Highlights—

- High-occupancy vehicle system, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, vanpool program and commute trip reduction expansion.
- Fuel and energy conservation for state ferries, ramp metering, express lane system automation and other system efficiencies.

# WSDOT's Big Picture—Moving Washington

*Moving Washington* is WSDOT's three-part strategy to address congestion. The three points of the strategy are to:

- Complete critical corridors
- operate our existing lanes as efficiently as possible
- give people more choices to improve their commute and reduce demand on our transportation system.



These strategies also support our efforts to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and address climate change by promoting alternatives to driving alone and creating more efficient operations.

## **Responsible, resourceful transportation**

### **Improve operations—ongoing, innovative trials**

Continue reducing and reusing road and other operational materials;

Testing ferry biodiesel;

Ongoing testing of new lower temperature asphalt mixtures and more responsible cement;

Expanding commute programs to include students, residents and employers in urban centers;

Using smarter highways technologies to improve travel efficiencies;

Installing more efficient traffic lights and solar-powered traffic systems;

Participating in research projects;

Reporting progress and sharing lessons learned.

### **Funding sources—long-term solutions are needed**

We are looking into viable and realistic long-term funding solutions—new environmental policy tools including cap and trade; variable tolling; user fees for vehicle miles traveled

## Next steps—

### **Regional transportation groups to provide blueprint— expect new choices, reduced vehicle miles and lower emissions**

- Work group formed in fall 2009 to meet the Governor’s direction requirements.
- Committee with Department of Ecology and Commerce also includes representatives from WSDOT and the four largest regional transportation planning organizations.
- Groups will create regional transportation plans with recommendations for additional transportation alternatives and choices, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled consistent with the statutory benchmarks.
- We will begin public outreach spring 2010

**Achieving gas reduction goals will be challenging ,  
but working collaboratively we are up to the challenge.**

## Questions?

Want more information about what WSDOT is doing to reduce the transportation sector's effect on climate change and what we are doing to create a more sustainable transportation system, please visit us online at:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/climatechange/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/climatechange/)