

WSDOT Olympic Region Planning Office



WSDOT Olympic Region
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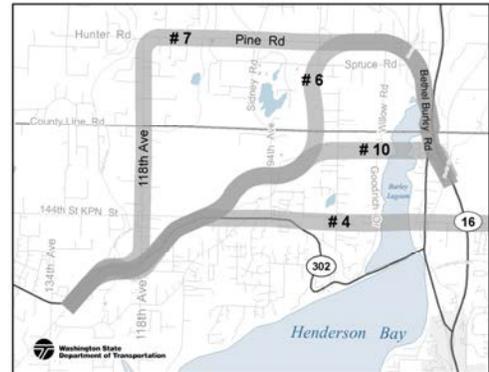


2011 Annual Report

HIGHLIGHTS

SR 302 Corridor Study/EIS

In early 2011, Olympic Region staff commissioned the help of WSDOT Northwest Region staff to produce 3 discipline reports for the study. Planning Office staff also managed an external consultant contract for field exploration and reporting of cultural resources in the vicinity of the four build alternatives. The result will be a discipline report that will join the twelve others that define the impacts of these alternatives across all identified environmental resource areas. Other work related to engineering studies about the four alternatives will continue through 2012. Unfunded at this time are the activities to support the remaining NEPA process, including development of the draft and final EIS document.



SR 302 EIS Alternatives (2007-2012)

Chehalis Flood State Team

Olympic Region Planning Office staff continue to provide interagency coordination and process facilitation support on behalf of the Chehalis Flood State Team. This work included project management services related to the state's role as the non-federal sponsor of the Corps of Engineers Twin Cities Flood Risk Reduction Project, an authorized federal water resources project that would provide protection from flooding for the cities of Centralia, Chehalis and vicinity, and the I-5 corridor. In 2011, an updated analysis by the Corps showed that the project no longer has sufficient flood protection benefits, and the project lost federal funding. The future of the project and Olympic Region's role on the project in 2012 is uncertain. Coordination efforts in 2011 also focused on assisting with local Flood Authority activities funded by the 2011 legislature, including RFP and proposal review, a legislative tour of the area, and coordinating interagency technical reviews related to a report to the legislature to be delivered in July 2012.



Twin Cities Project (ongoing)



I-5/ US 101 Interchange Feasibility Study

This project builds on the results of the West Olympia Access Study, and will provide preliminary analysis about issues and options at this critical junction in the Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater area on I-5. Work began in fall 2010, and continued through 2011, including several stakeholder outreach

sessions, data collection, an existing conditions report, and alternatives analysis and development. A modeling effort aimed at determining comparative performance of many of the alternatives concluded at the end of 2011. That analysis is being compiled and will be presented for stakeholder consideration in the first part of 2012. The end result will be the identification of a broad range of feasible solutions that may be used later for further evaluation.

I-5 JBLM Congestion Relief Efforts

This effort consisted of several different areas of contribution for the Planning Office.

Our staff contributed expertise towards a successful federal grant award for the JBLM Congestion Management Project (TIGER III), which will fund innovative peak hour operations solutions like hard shoulder running, ramp meters, and HOV bypasses.

Our staff also participated in the early scoping process for the Thurston Regional Planning Council's (TRPC) I-5 JBLM Action Plan, a congestion relief planning effort focusing on short term, inexpensive solutions, which we expect will continue in

2012 with more technical analysis activities involving TRPC, Puget Sound Regional Council, WSDOT Urban Planning and Olympic Region Planning Offices.



I-5 JBLM Congestion Management Project (ongoing)

US 101 / SR 8 Technical Traffic Operations Study

This study is a technical traffic operation analysis of US 101/SR 8 that will determine the best strategies for improving traffic congestion between these connecting corridors. Planning Office staff will conduct a technical operational analysis which will evaluate specific roadway characteristics and operational deficiencies to determine feasibility and costs for a range of potential low to moderate cost solutions. A traffic simulation model will be created and calibrated to provide traffic analysis information. Expected benefits will be improved mobility, reduced travel time, improved air quality and decrease number of serious collisions.



US 101 / SR 8 Technical Traffic Operations Study (2011-2012)

A

Public Involvement

We organized a variety of public involvement activities for the Region:

- Groundbreakings & Ribbon-cutting Events - These celebrations involve advertising, event planning and setting up locations, coordination with staff, consultants, media, local leaders and the public, managing equipment and support. The following events occurred in 2011:



SR 520 Pontoon Groundbreaking (2011)

SR 520 Pontoon Site Groundbreaking
SR 16 Westbound Nalley Valley Ribbon-cutting
SR 16 Eastbound Nalley Valley Ribbon-cutting
SR 410 Additional Lanes and Signal Ribbon-cutting
SR 161 36th to Jovita Additional Lanes Ribbon-cutting
SR 303 Manette Bridge Replacement Ribbon-cutting

- Open Houses - developed fliers, organized mailings and advertising, and/or helped coordinate events for US 101 Shore Rd to Kitchen Dick Rd and SR 3 Belfair Area Widening & Safety Improvement projects.

Development Services

We organized and implemented a series of successful state highway improvements, including:

- *I-5 93rd Avenue* – Working with Olympic Region Management, Development Services collected pro rata share funds which were added to the I-5 Paver titled “SR 121 to Tumwater Boulevard” resulting in the state project widening the southbound off-ramp and adding a westbound 93rd left-turn lane to the southbound I-5 on-ramp, including illumination.
- *I-5 Tumwater Boulevard* - This City of Tumwater project will widen the I-5 southbound off-ramp, add a Tumwater Boulevard eastbound left turn to southbound I-5, and rebuild the existing traffic signal. Project is currently still in design review.
- *I-5 Trosper Road interchange* – Working closely with the City of Tumwater, the new Tumwater Walmart was SEPA conditioned to widen the I-5 southbound off-ramp, rebuild the southbound on-ramp, and rebuild the traffic signal at the ramp terminal with Trosper Road. The developer project was successfully completed.
- *US 101 Lower Elwha Tribe health clinic* – We facilitated expedient and appropriate reviews resulting in a shelf ready developer agreement so the Tribe could begin seeking the needed construction funding.
- *US 101 Deer Park intersection improvements* - Working closely with Clallam County, design review continues on a project that will build a new US 101 bridge to allow for a

realigned Deer Park Road to cross under US 101. The nearby existing Deer Park and Buchanan Drive intersections will then become right-in / right-out intersections by restricting the existing left-ins and left-outs along this stretch of US 101, thereby significantly improving the operations of US 101 at this location. Project is still in design review.

- *US 101 Port Angeles Walmart intersection and signal improvement* – We led the developer, county, and WSDOT offices through a complex process to ensure the optimum level of improvements were designed and installed at this congested location. Project added double left turn lanes on US 101 and is complete.
- *US 101 Wallace Kneeland Boulevard IJR (engineering and operational acceptance)* - This local priority project is a great example of how our expertise ensures the right level of state and local coordination is occurring in adapting new ideas to develop the most effective solution, incorporating developer input / funding. Project is currently in design.
- *SR 104 in Jefferson County* – The Development Services team worked closely with Region management and HQ on a SR 104 Miles Sand and Gravel constructed left-turn lane with acceleration lane, which also had limited access matters that were successfully resolved. The highway widening work is complete.
- *SR 305 Winslow Way intersection* – the City of Bainbridge Island rebuilt the existing span wire signal as part of a general improvement to their Winslow Way city street improvement. Olympic Region Development Services worked closely with city staff and Region management to take advantage of the opportunity to come up with the additional funding needed to get this signal rebuilt with minor channelization added to the City project. Project is complete and an excellent example of partnering with a local agency.
- *SR 410 at 225th widening in Bonney Lake* - Our staff worked through this unique developer proposal so that the work could be added to the state's SR 410 widening project at no additional cost to the state due to right-of-way donations by the developer involved. The result is a new intersection that will have double left turns on all four approaches, and a future developer installed traffic signal. The SR 410 highway widening work is complete, but due to economic reasons the new side streets are not yet open because developer projects driving the work have been put on hold.
- *I-705 Sound Transit D2M Street* – Working closely with region staff and HQ RES staff, Sound Transit was approved to build the D2M heavy rail line extension under I-705. The project is currently under construction.
- *I-705 City of Tacoma city street improvement* – Working closely with City of Tacoma staff, a time sensitive project to construct a new city street between I-705 and new LeMay Automobile Museum was successfully completed on time.

Our Mission

The Olympic Region Transportation Planning Office provides planning and development services that support the WSDOT's goals. Through our partnerships with regional and local governments and agencies, we are active participants representing WSDOT in the development of innovative solutions needed to address our emerging transportation challenges.

What we do

Technical analysis

Our office is experienced in operating both the PSRC and TRPC travel demand models that cover the urban areas of the Region, as well as developing traffic forecasts for unmodeled areas on the Olympic Peninsula as needed. We have experience interpreting both inputs and outputs from these models for project development and planning purposes, and have experience in operating models on both the EMME/2 and VISUM software platforms.

Federal and State planning mandates

WSDOT is responsible for carrying out requirements for planning under 23 CFR 450 and RCW 47.06.020 by coordinating and developing statewide policies, developing a statewide multimodal plan, and conducting specific transportation studies.

Our office is responsible for developing data needed in statewide planning and prioritization activities, especially the Highway System Plan as required under 23 CFR 450.214 . We use appropriate tools for this purpose, including the travel delay methodology and planning level estimating tools used by the WSDOT Capital Project and Program Delivery Office, Trafficware Synchro, and Highway Capacity Manual software. This year we began our first project performing operations analysis using PTV VISSIM traffic simulation software.

Planning studies

Our office performs all the tasks necessary to conduct the corridor studies needed in the Region, fulfilling requirements under state and federal law (23 CFR 450.214 and RCW 47.06.020(4)), and ensuring that WSDOT demonstrates that development of transportation solutions on state facilities involves broadly supported, collaborative decision making. Studies include Corridor Plans, Feasibility Studies, Origin/Destination Studies, and Environmental Impact Statements.

Regional coordination and Peninsula RTPO Lead Agency

Our office participates and contributes to the regional planning process across the Region, and serve as an essential part of WSDOT's effort to fulfill the federal requirement for continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive statewide planning. We work with our counterparts at other state, federal, tribal, local, and regional agencies to consider their concerns, priorities, data, and making sure that planning at WSDOT is consistent and efficient. We also are the lead agency for the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

Development services

Our office manages reviews of developer proposals at the Region, interpreting design guidance and negotiating appropriate mitigation for impacts under SEPA. We are the lead in processing Plans for Approval associated with these developments. We also consider and process all Region permits for highway access to property, and also those related to temporary work.

Working with developers

WSDOT is responsible for implementing access management rules under RCW 47.50, and reviewing state highway impacts of developments under SEPA.

Technical Services Group – Data Analysis

We are responsible for delivery of the technical analysis required to support long-range planning activities for the Region. We support statewide planning with our work on the Highway System Plan (HSP), and supporting Region priority projects.

Who participated in 2011

Nazmul Alam – *System Planning Engineer*
Forest Suttmiller – *Senior Planning Engineer*
Martha Marrah – *GIS specialist*
Yvette Liufau – *Associate Planner*

For HSP planning, our staff work with data and tools that determine existing and long-range congestion deficiencies throughout the Region, work on options for new or evolving strategies to improve travel times, reduce collisions, improve trip reliability and offer more commute options in urban areas. We also work on cost estimates and developing system performance measures, while coordinating these efforts with local agencies and WSDOT offices.

Selected Accomplishments in 2011

- Developed conceptual solutions for Olympic Region’s counties for truck bottleneck locations identified by UW TRAC for the WSDOT Freight Services Division.
- Review transportation element of local agency comprehensive plans.
- Peninsula RTPO – supported the organization’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update by developing level of service (LOS) estimates and maps of key locations for consideration.
- Project delivery – developed travel demand model and approach to consider construction impact on traffic congestion and patterns of HOV project work in and around Tacoma. Performed joint reviews with Olympic Region Traffic for large developments. Provided highway capacity, LOS analysis and updated collision data for the Belfair Bypass Transportation Discipline Report.
- GIS – generated maps of Olympic Region counties for Capitol Improvement and Preservation projects, presentation materials for the I-5 JBLM Area Congestion Management project, data and map products for SR 302 EIS, I-5/US 101 Interchange Feasibility Study, two Belfair Bypass Discipline Reports, US 101/SR 8 Technical Traffic Operations Analysis project, PRTPO Regional Transportation Plan, scoping efforts in three counties, and organized data collection for the SR167 toll feasibility study.

What is the Highway System Plan (HSP)?

It’s a comprehensive assessment of existing and projected 20-year deficiencies on the state’s highway system. The goals are to add capacity strategically, operate the existing system efficiently and manage demand by offering commute choices.



Traffic output from the HOV impact analysis

Technical Services Group – Corridor Planning

Activities

Planning Studies are a pre-design function, providing tools for supporting all WSDOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO), tribal, and local agency transportation decisions.

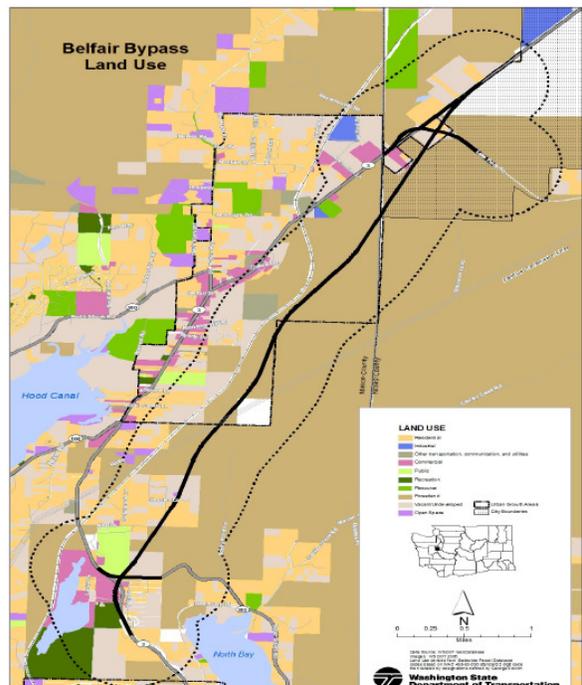
Who participated in 2011

Nazmul Alam – *System Planning Engineer*
George Kovich – *Principal Senior Planner*
T.J. Nedrow – *Senior Planner*
Yvette Liufau – *Associate Planner*

Our staff is responsible for conducting both technical and community-based planning studies to identify and recommend short and long-term transportation improvements. We use a collaborative model involving WSDOT and local agency staff and stakeholder groups. Studies typically include technical evaluation of existing and forecast traffic conditions, environmental and right-of-way issues, a review of functional, access, and roadside classifications, and the inter-relationship between transportation, land-use plans, and related facilities.

Accomplishments in 2011

- Developed and completed the Land Use Relocation Discipline Report for the SR 3 Belfair Bypass Project Environmental Analysis.
- Completed Transportation Discipline Report for the SR 3 Belfair Bypass Project Environmental Analysis.
- I-5 / US 101 Interchange Feasibility Study – initiated Phase 1 of the study. Held stakeholder meetings, developed study purpose and schedule, conducted background data review and data collection. Also held alternative development workshop to identified feasible alternatives to move into Phase II or detail analysis.
- Project support activities – Developed bicycle and pedestrian technical memo for Belfair Bypass Transportation Discipline Report. Participated in Lacey Martin Way IJR and the SR 104 Kingston Realignment Feasibility Study.
- SR 302 EIS – managed consultant contract and also internal WSDOT staff to deliver discipline studies and reports for use in compiling the Draft EIS report.



Belfair Bypass Land Use Discipline Report

Regional Coordination Group

Activities

We work inside and outside the Region to understand and resolve transportation issues where federal, state, tribal, and local interests coincide. We work with these partners to develop and implement corridor management

and scenic byway plans. We support Region project offices and activities related to public involvement, environmental justice, federal Title VI requirements, TDM considerations, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities. We are responsible for review and comment on local Comprehensive plan updates, making sure they are consistent with requirements associated with the impacts of land use changes on state owned transportation facilities (under RCW 36.70A.070(6)).

Who participated in 2011

George Kovich – *Principal Senior Planner*
T.J. Nedrow – *Transit Liaison TDM Coordinator*
Patrick Babineau – *Peninsula RTPO Coordinator*
Debbie Clemen – *Public Involvement Coordinator*

Accomplishments in 2011

- Regional coordination – Represent the Region in Technical Advisory and Executive Policy Committees, including Peninsula RTPO, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC), Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC), Grays Harbor Council of Governments (COG). Attend quarterly MPO/RTPO Coordinating meetings and on Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO).
- Comprehensive plan reviews – Reviewed and coordinated Region reviews on numerous comp plan updates, land use regulation amendments. Participated in WSDOT Plan Review Work Group whose objective is to develop comprehensive plan review resources for WSDOT region staff that simplify and standardize plan reviews. Included providing comments on various sections of the Dept. of Commerce GMA Transportation Guidebook, which is being updated.
- Multimodal planning - Provided developer and project plan technical reviews to confirm appropriate transportation demand management, transit, and non-motorized accommodations.
- Public involvement support – Provided logistical support to project and support offices for groundbreaking (I-5 HOV Port of Tacoma Rd to King County Line), ribbon cutting for SR 510 Yelm loop, open house and public meetings for Point Defiance Bypass, US 101 Shore to Kitchen-Dick Widening, and the Chehalis River Flood projects.

Peninsula RTPO Group

Activities

This work element fulfills the commitment WSDOT has made as the lead agency for the Peninsula RTPO (PRTPO). The coordinator works with Planning Office managers to guide and supports the PRTPO toward the goals established under the Growth

Management Act of 1990. Work includes staff support to the Executive Council, Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and various subcommittees. Work also includes collection and development of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and submission of PRTPO documentation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Who participated in 2011

George Kovich – *Regional Coordination Lead*
Patrick Babineau – *Peninsula RTPO Coordinator*
Debbie Maker – *Transportation Planning Tech.*
Yvette Liufau – *Associate Transportation Planner*

Accomplishments in 2011

- Coordination – Organized the regular scheduled meetings of the PRTPO Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Council/Policy Board meetings. Represented the organization at bimonthly meetings of the Statewide MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee.
- PRTPO tour – Organized the annual bus tour for the group to Mason County in early June.
- Regional Priority Investment in Transit - Coordinated a new Regional Investment Priorities focus on transit needs in the three rural counties of the Peninsula RTPO.
- Top 20 List – Coordinated the update and further development of the Peninsula RTPO Top Regional Transportation Investment Priorities List for the Washington Transportation Commission, including outreach to city, county and tribal officials for their input and it received approval from the Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Council/Policy Board.
- Regional Transportation Plan Update - Managed the meetings of the subcommittee and coordinated the direction of the group's work.



The Peninsula RTPO covers Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties

Development Services Group

Team Activities

This team is responsible for coordination and delivery of state highway improvements funded through private developer or local agency initiatives. The team coordinates the Region review of developer and jurisdictional proposals

forwarded from lead local agencies. Reviews focus on the adequacy of the proposal with respect to traffic and stormwater impacts, mitigation analysis, and consistency of the proposal with route development and other agency plans. This group also prepares agreements and permits for use by developers and local agencies to perform work or access WSDOT right-of-way.

Who participated in 2011

Dale Severson – *Development Services Engineer*
Art Sporseen – *Development Senior Reviewer*
Debbie Maker – *Development Service Technician*
Forest Suttmiller – *System Planning Engineer*

Accomplishments in 2011

- Administrative support - contributed secretarial help to entire office, including budget tracking, training registration and safety meeting, scheduling and phone coverage.
- Access permits – instituted electronic transmittal of connection permits to Maintenance superintendents, improving speed and reducing cost of the process.
- Permits – processed 489 new and updated general permits, and 3 survey permits for use when doing work on state highways. Processed 61 access connection permits for US 101 Shore to Kitchen-Dick Rd. widening project.
- Financial tracking – Development Services team meets monthly with Financial Services to discuss any outstanding invoice issues.
- Developer project support – we facilitated the design, review and approval of numerous highway projects funded through State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).



Proper radius, Paved back to R/W, clean access

Development Services works to ensure good practices in roadway approach construction