



Moving People and Goods in Washington State



The Washington State Transportation Commission

An independent, seven-member body of citizens appointed by the Governor for six-year terms – three from east of the mountains and four from the west. The WSDOT Secretary and the Governor's Office serve as non-voting members.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Proposes transportation policy and finance recommendations** to the Governor and Legislature.
- Serves as the **State Tolling Authority**, adopting state highway and bridge tolls, and setting fares for Washington State Ferries.
- Develops and issues a comprehensive, balanced **20-year statewide transportation plan**.
- **Conducts a statewide outreach program** to gather public input into state transportation policy, to promote transportation education; and to understand local and regional transportation needs and challenges.
- Provides a **public forum** for transportation policy development.

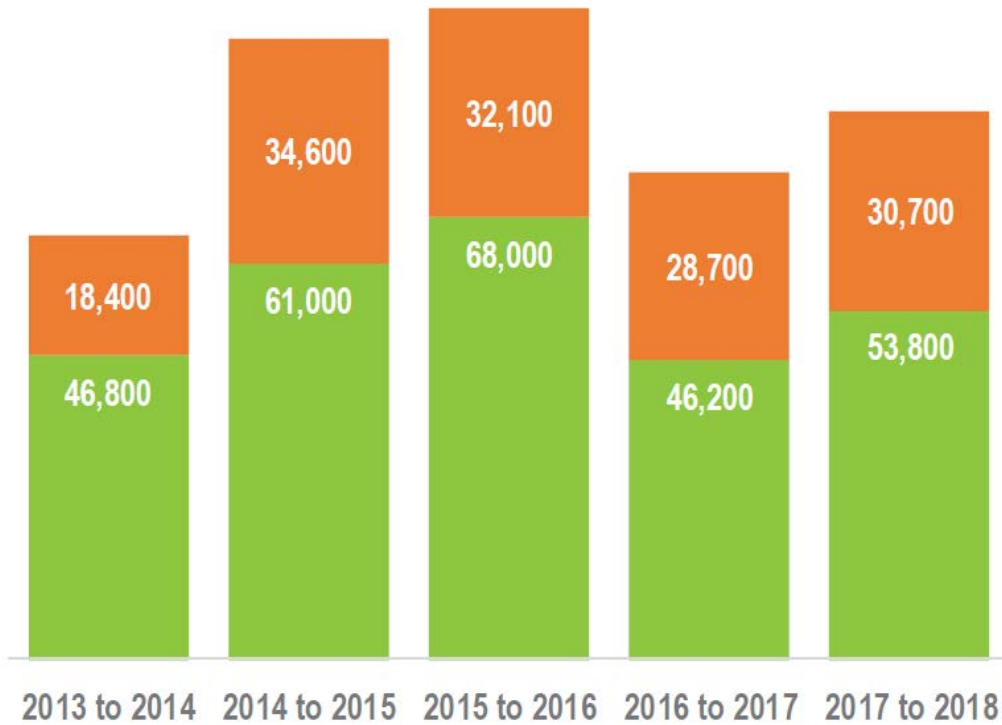


Washington's Statewide Transportation System

- 18,046 miles of city streets.
- 39,180 miles of county roads and seven county ferries.
- Over 7,000 miles of state highways and 23 ferries.
- 465 miles of Columbia-Snake River barge transport.
- Reservation roads, DNR and Forest Service roads.
- 32 transit agencies.
- 75 port districts in 33 of 39 counties.
- Sidewalks and bike paths.
- Over 7.5 million registered passenger vehicles, trucks and motorcycles.
- Amtrak, Sounder, Link light rail, streetcars.
- Freight trains and trucking companies.
- Airlines and maritime shipping lines.
- Bicycles.



Good News: the State Economy is Booming

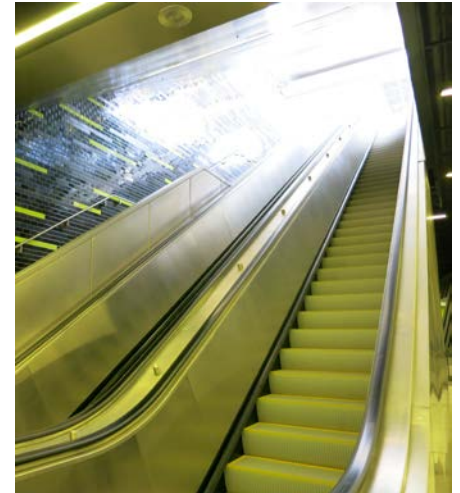


Annual Employment Growth, April 2013 -2018:
Puget Sound region (in green)
State (green and orange)



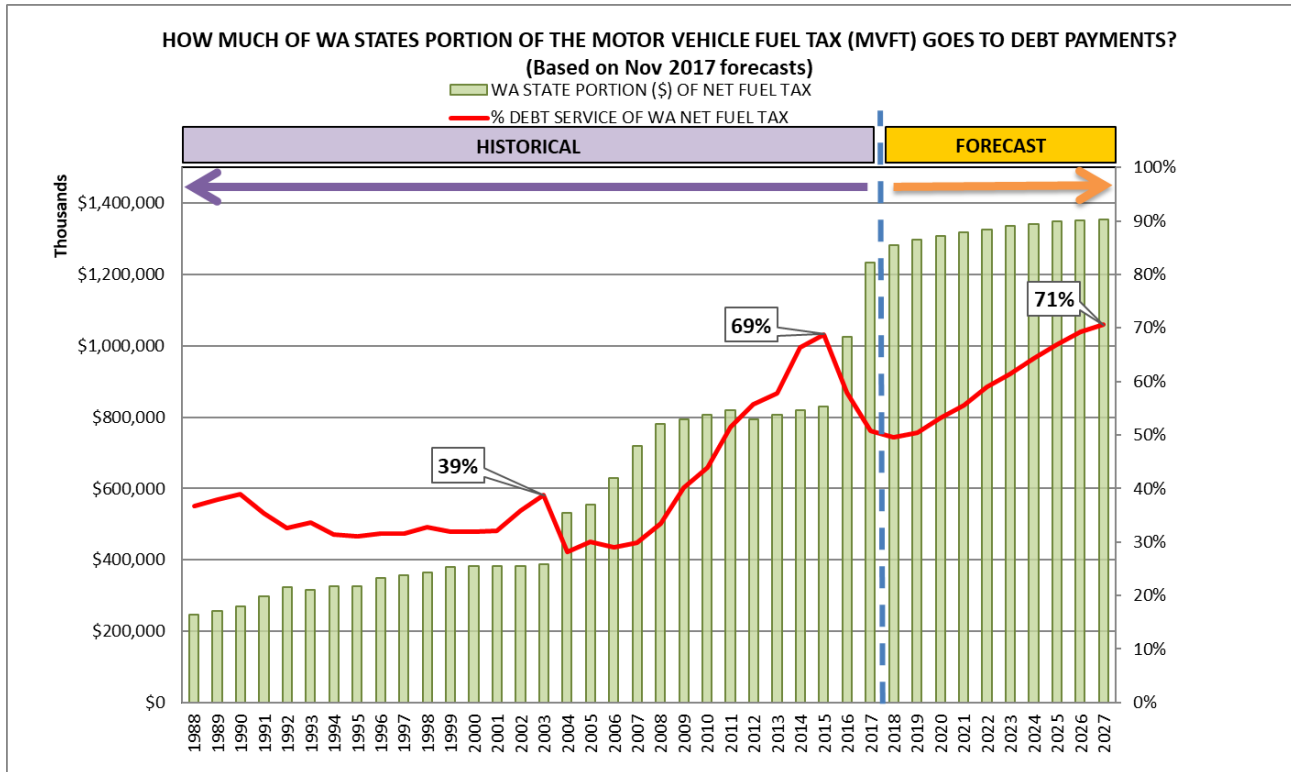
Bad News:

- Increasing Debt Burden
- Inadequate Investment in Preservation
- Traffic Is Overwhelming
- Not Everywhere Is Growing



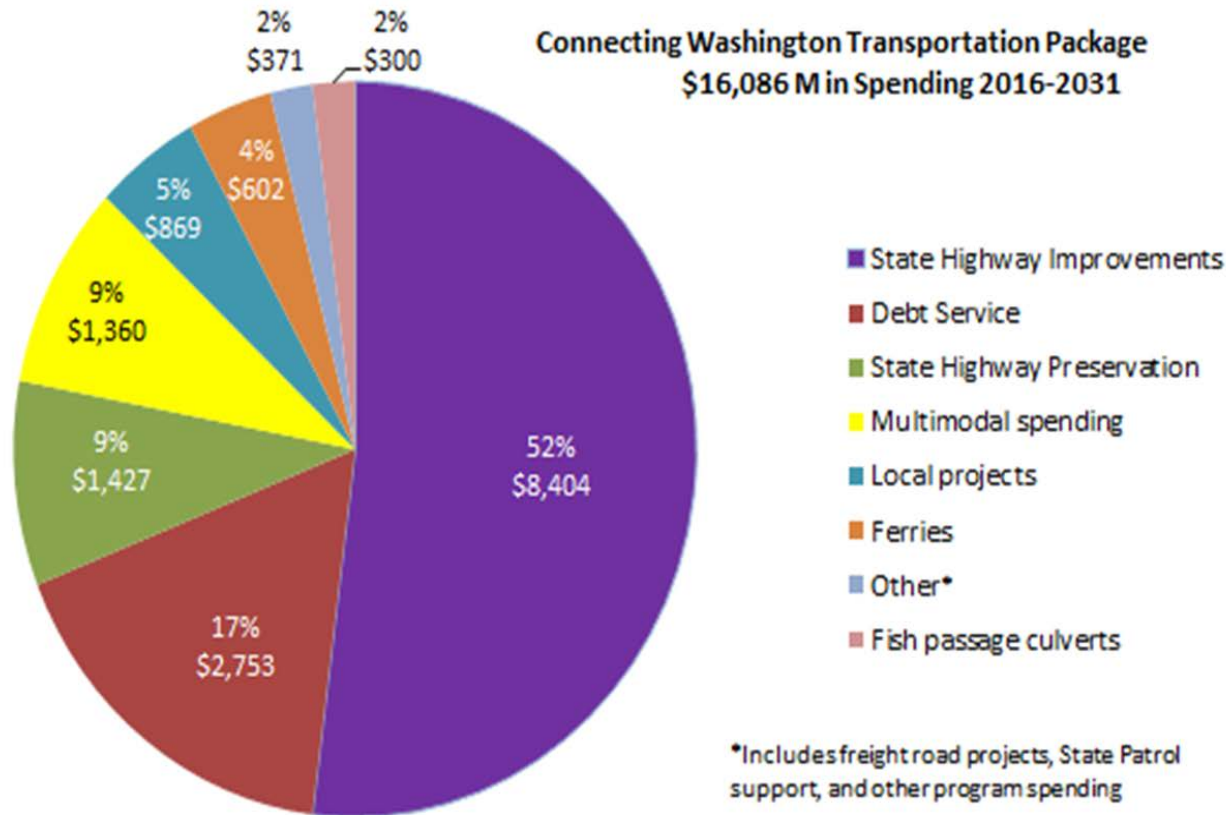
Transportation Debt is Growing

At 49.4 cents per gallon, Washington's gas tax is second highest in the nation. Bonds have been issued against most of the recent increases to expand the highway system. By 2027, 71% of gas tax revenue going to the state will be turned over to bondholders.



At the local level, property taxes, licensing fees, and sales taxes help maintain streets and roads, and in the Puget Sound region expand mass transit.

Not Spending Enough on Preservation – But Making Big Capital Investments



Traffic Is Overwhelming

- In the Central Puget Sound, travel times have increased on all corridors.
- Contrary to national trends, transit boardings in that region are up 17% and many routes are overcrowded.



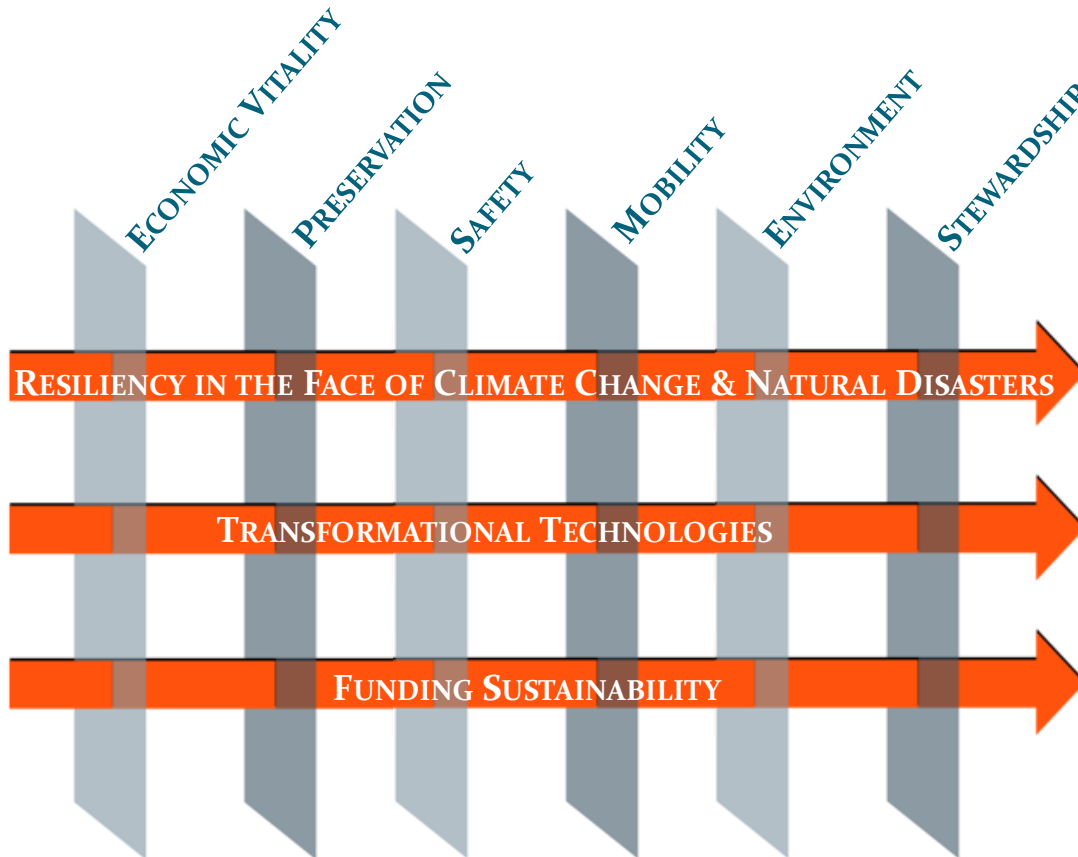
Not Everywhere Is Growing

- The entire state is growing a little in every region, but growth has outpaced infrastructure in the Puget Sound and Clark County regions.



- Construction costs are up everywhere in the state.
- Social equity also is a statewide concern with very high housing costs in fast growth areas and high poverty levels elsewhere.

Blueprint for the Future: The Washington Transportation Plan



Develop and update every four years ... a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan consistent with the state's growth management goals and based on the transportation policy goals.



How Will Technology Impact Transportation, Land Use, the Economy, and the Environment?

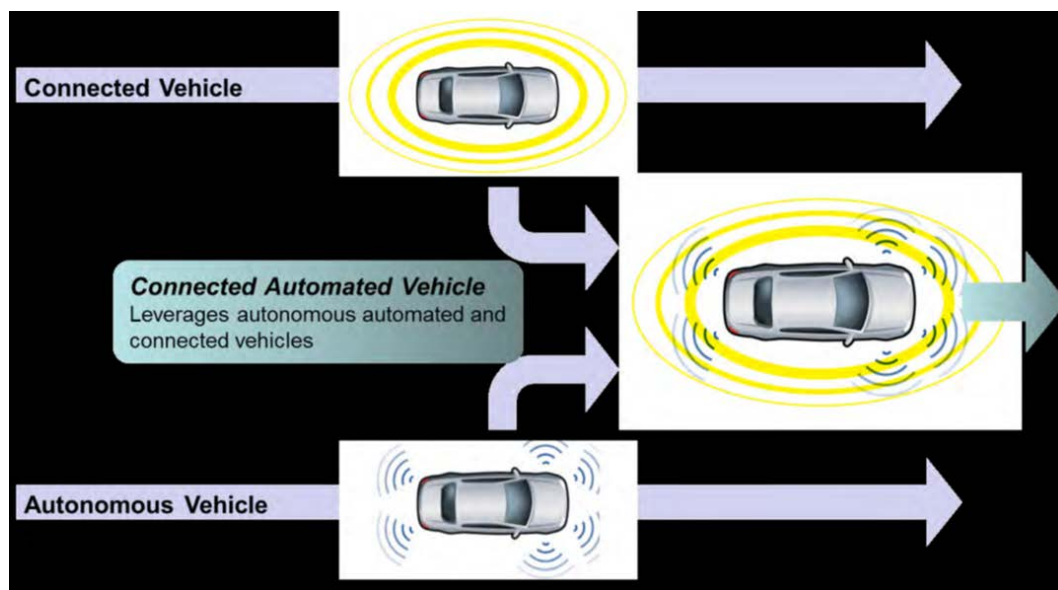
More sprawl? Longer commutes?

Big parking lots not needed?

Prioritize and manage curb space?

Congestion pricing? Or surplus roadways?

Mobility as a Service? Less Public Transportation?





Transportation is paramount to our state's resiliency.

Increasing frequency of severe weather events and disruptions due to climate change will tax resources, infrastructure, and services.

Transportation is critical to:

- Emergency response
- Societal recovery
- Business continuity



Sustainable Funding

Toll revenue pays for debt, maintenance, and operations for each tolled facility. Tolling generated over \$193 million in FY 2017.

Toll exemptions are now standardized across facilities.

Newest toll facilities:

- I-405 Express Toll Lanes opened September 2015.
- AWW Replacement Tunnel opening Fall 2018.

Future tolling anticipated:

- SR 167 to Port of Tacoma and SR 509 to I-5
- I-405 Express Toll Lanes from Bellevue to Renton

Ferry Fares will raise \$381 million in 2017 – 2019, covering about 75% of WSF operating costs.

Road Usage Charge Pilot Project has 2,000 volunteers. Report and recommendations to Legislature January 2020.



Public Education and Outreach: Where the Commission has met since August 2016



Thank you!
wstc.wa.gov
transc@wstc.wa.gov

