PRTPO Members

Clallam County

Jefferson County

Kitsap County

Mason County

Bainbridge Island

Bremerton

Forks

Port Angeles

Port Orchard

Port Townsend

Poulsbo

Sequim

Shelton

Clallam Transit

Jefferson Transit

Kitsap Transit

Mason Transit

Port of Allyn

Port of Bremerton

Port of Port Angeles

Port of Shelton

WSDOT Olympic Region

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Makah Nation

Skokomish Tribe

Squaxin Island Tribe

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To our legislators in the 23rd, 24th, 26th, and 35th Districts,

Your work at the state level is shaping our work at the regional level. Your leadership is propelling the retrofit of outdated highway corridors into complete streets for all modes of travel. And your support for funding programs that sustain rural transit makes possible vital long-distance services connecting the North Olympic Peninsula and Mason County with ferries and Seattle-area destinations. Unparalleled coordination between WSDOT, tribes, and other partners is restoring fish passages across the region. The Peninsula Region, like the State, has come a long way. But we can do better. We can make travel safer, more reliable, and efficient for all – faster and cheaper – with a bit more upfront regional collaboration.

Complete streets connect communities.
Complete planning supports complete streets.

Whether it's a local street connecting neighborhoods and businesses or a state highway connecting communities, there are multiple transportation partners. Complete streets that work for all modes of travel start with complete planning for all modes of travel. It's a multimodal way of thinking about travel, from planning through implementation – and not just for Complete Street projects. For example, the practical design of fish passage projects can do more than improve salmon habitat with little or no additional cost when active transportation and transit access are upfront considerations. And addressing all modes of travel when permitting highway access requests in urban growth areas minimizes the need for costly retrofits later. A complete planning approach accounts for as-yet unfunded needs, leaving the door open for future improvements without escalating costs for unnecessary rebuilds. Tight budgets compel us to be even more strategic in making highways safer for all modes of travel. Adopting a complete street mindset throughout WSDOT and local programs can accelerate our shared multimodal aims and generate more bang for the limited bucks available.

Here are three things we need your help with to support strategic complete street efforts.

Clarify Shared Street Regulations - Washington's new Shared Streets law allows cities to designate a different kind of public street that prioritizes pedestrian access in mixed traffic environments, similar to streets in the Pike Place Market. As the first state in the nation to adopt such a law, our members need clear legal and design guidance to take advantage of this opportunity.

> *PRTPO's request: Direct WSDOT to expedite development of local agency guidelines for the implementation of new Shared Streets legislation.*

Assess Impacts of Hood Canal Bridge Lift-Operations – SR 104 and SR 3 connect the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas via the Hood Canal Bridge. Unpredictable bridge closures to allow passage of leisure sailboats severely impact the reliability of transit-ferry connections and impose costs on commerce and residents alike. In 2023, more than half of all bridge closures were for large yachts; that is more than for all Navy and commercial vessels, combined. Yet no WSDOT analysis of the operational and economic impacts of Hood Canal Bridge closures exists. WSDOT needs a little funding to conduct the critical analysis we need to engage the Coast Guard about simple updates to federal policies governing bridge closures for sailboats.

PRTPO's request: Provide $150,000 to WSDOT Olympic Region Multimodal Planning for an analysis of traffic, economic, and community impacts of Hood Canal Bridge lift practices for recreational vessels. Implications for World Cup congestion are significant since boating volumes will increase.

Support Regional Corridor Planning – Retrofitting outdated highway corridors will take a generation or more, with investments by multiple state and local agencies over time. Coordinated corridor-wide approaches are key to complete planning processes. They increase predictability and efficiency for all, ensuring individual actions over the next 10-15 years add up to highly functional, multimodal corridors. The SR 305 corridor study is a good example of how a coordinated multi-agency approach yields increased predictability for project sponsors, resulting in practical, cost-effective multimodal strategies for corridor mobility. We've included a short a list of regionally significant corridors where modest investments in coordinated corridor studies can accelerate the design and delivery of good projects at a lower cost to taxpayers. The potential to coordinate with analysis of Hood Canal Bridge operations makes the SR 104/SR 3/Hood Canal Bridge study our top priority.

PRTPO's request: Earmark $1 million for an SR 104/SR 3/Hood Canal Bridge corridor study engaging communities and transportation stakeholders on both sides of the Hood Canal Bridge to identify policies, operational strategies, and capital needs that increase travel-time reliability and person throughput, and reduce congestion impacts on highways and surrounding communities.

While our focus this year is on complete planning for complete streets, we value your efforts in securing and protecting funding for regionally significant improvements such as the SR 3 Freight Corridor in Belfair and SR 3 improvements in Gorst, SR 305 corridor safety and mobility improvements, East Sequim improvements along US 101, SR 112 stabilization efforts, and ferry system improvements. These are big projects with far-reaching, long-term impacts. We continue to advocate for their timely completion and monitor their progress.

Finally, we watch with interest the coordinated transit planning efforts underway for the 2026 World Cup. PRTPO supports logistical planning and collaboration among transit providers that not only meets mobility needs next summer, but which yield lasting benefits for the traveling public and our local economies long after the matches are over. PRTPO stands ready to facilitate communication and coordination among our members in support of these efforts.

Your Regional Transportation Partner

Peninsula RTPO is your partner in meeting statewide transportation goals in the Peninsula region. PRTPO is where our 27 cities, counties, tribes, transit agencies, ports, and WSDOT Olympic Region come together to forge a common direction and tackle tough problems the region faces. Our effectiveness as your regional partner in supporting this coordination is limited only by the resources available to us for this important work. We continue to urge the Legislature to shore up base funding for RTPOs to enable at least one full-time staff to support our work, especially for rural regions such as PRTPO that receive no supplemental federal planning funds. We welcome the chance to talk with you further about this.

We appreciate your interest and support for priority regional concerns and look forward to working with you to support mobility across the Peninsula Region and beyond.

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PRTPO 2026 *Transportation Outlook*

REGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY NEEDS	Transportation Stakeholders	LD#	Planning Funds
SR 104 / SR 3 Hood Canal Bridge Corridor *From SR 19 to Port Gamble on SR 104 and from SR 104 to SR 305 on SR 3* The SR 104 corridor connects the North Olympic Peninsula to the Kitsap Peninsula and SR 3 via the Hood Canal Bridge. Closures of the Hood Canal Bridge to accommodate marine traffic - Navy and commercial vessels as well as large recreational yachts - create backups that impact communities on both sides of the bridge. This corridor study will identify roadway improvements that mitigate congestion effects on adjacent neighborhoods and bridge policies that alleviate effects of recreational marine traffic on highway users. This study complements WSDOT's Hood Canal Bridge operational analysis and economic	WSDOT, Kitsap County, Jefferson County, Jefferson Transit, Clallam Transit, Kitsap Transit, Coast Guard	23rd, 24th	$1,000,000
SR 117 Truck Route *From US 101 to Marine Terminal Drive* Ramp configuration at the intersection of SR 117 (Tumwater Truck Route) and US 101 precludes freight access to or from the east, forcing heavy trucks to go through downtown Port Angeles for port terminal access. The preferred SR 117 route cuts through residential neighborhoods and past schools. This corridor study will entail freight analysis and identify complete street treatments needed to mitigate effects of that traffic on adjacent communities. It augments city efforts to enable full directional access at the SR 117/US 101 interchange, which will afford freight traffic a more direct and unencumbered route to and from the	WSDOT, Port Angeles, Port of Port Angeles, Clallam Transit, Clallam County	24th	$250,000
North Kitsap Peninsula *Including SR 104 (SR 3 to Kingston), SR 307 (SR 104 to SR 305), & SR 3 (SR 104 to SR 305)* North Kitsap Peninsula is served by three geographically constrained highway corridors that play critical roles in connecting the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas with the Seattle metropolitan area. Planning for SR 305 has been completed, but a coordinated approach is needed for the remaining three corridors serving this area, whose traffic volumes point to their regional significance. SR 307 in Poulsbo is carrying about 20,000 trips daily, though Poulsbo itself is only 12,300 in population. Geological constraints limit connectivity and alternate routes, underscoring the need for a coordinated strategy to improve reliable multimodal mobility.	WSDOT, Kitsap County, Poulsbo, Kitsap Transit, Jefferson Transit, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	23rd	$500,000

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS WE'RE TRACKING

US 101 / Simdars Bypass [$30 million Move Ahead WA funding commitment]

This project will improve safety and mobility on US 101 and area streets by constructing the missing ramps of the Simdars interchange and adding a new frontage road with street connections and roundabouts. Planning and preliminary design is complete.

SR 3 / SR 16 Gorst Area Safety and Multimodal Mobility Improvements [$82.5 million Move Ahead WA funding commitment]

A NEPA Planning & Environmental Linkages study is engaging communities, tribes, the Navy, and other stakeholders in developing and assessing a range of alternatives which will lead to a preferred alternative for improving safety, mobility, active transportation, and system resliency. The Legislature appropriated $82.5 million which covers planning, preliminary engineering, environmental review, ROW acquisition, and some near-term improvements. It does not cover construction costs for major long-term improvements.

SR 305 Safety and Mobility Improvements [$40.3 million Connecting WA funding commitment]

A coordinated approach to corridor planning to improve safety and mobility on SR 305 between the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal and Hostmark Street in Poulsbo resulted in an agreed upon list of measures. Poulsbo's SR 305 roundabout at Johnson Parkway opened in 2024, followed by WSDOT roundabouts on SR 305 at Adas-Will, Agatewood, and West Port Madison. Design is underway for three fish passage projects, and Totten Road and Day Road improvements, but additional funding will be required to complete all these projects.

SR 3 Freight Corridor [$66.9 million Connecting WA funding commitment]

This project will construct a new freight corridor from SR 302 in Mason County to SR 3 at Lake Flora Road in Kitsap County, relieving freight and regional through-traffic in downtown Belfair and increasing travel time reliability. Preliminary engineering and design is complete, as is environmental. Right-of-way acquisition is underway. This project will also enhance system resiliency by providing an alternate route if SR 3 is disrupted. This project is fully funded through a $66.9 million *Connecting WA* funding commitment.

SR 104 Kingston Ferry Terminal Traffic Improvement [$18.4 million Move Ahead WA commitment]

This project will realign SR 104 to move inbound ferry traffic to the north couplet (NE 1st Street). The realignment will provide 2 eastbound and 1 or 2 westbound (TBD) lanes from the WSF loading area to vicinity Iowa Ave., sidewalks, intersection improvements at Iowa/1st and Iowa/Main St., stormwater, illumination, restriping and signage of Main St. to two-way traffic and bike lanes, restriping of SR 104 mainline and associated signal work as need to support rerouting of traffic and bikes, and ferry toll booth relocation and associated holding area

Olympic Discovery Trail / US 101 Safety Project [$9.6 million commitment]

This project will make US 101 safety corridor improvements from milepost 270.7 to milepost 271.4, for Connecting Tribal Communities.