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,

Thank you for this annual opportunity to share with you, our legislative delegation, the needs and concerns of our member agencies working to build, operate, maintain, and manage all aspects of our transportation system and keep our communities moving. We value your partnership.

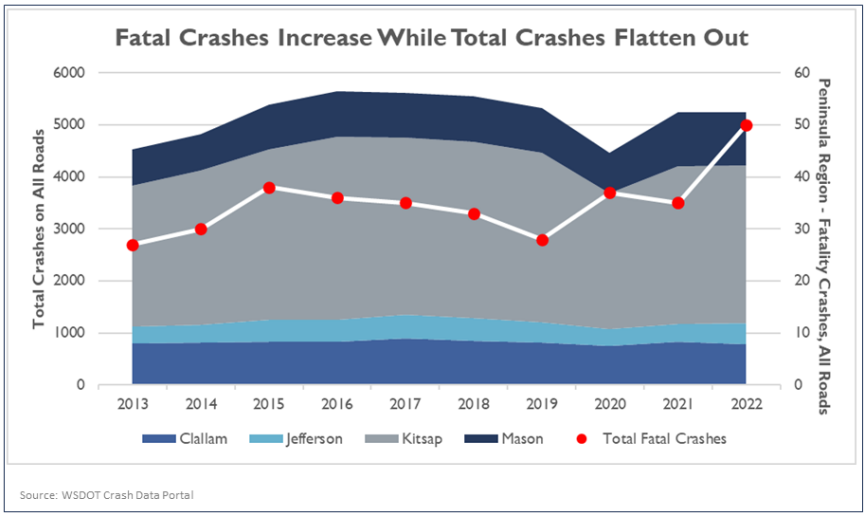
Let's finish what's been started. PRTPO continues to advocate for completion of the remaining *Connecting Washington* funding commitments from the 2015 funding package. It has been nearly a decade since the enactment of this funding package. Progress on the **SR 305 Safety and Mobility Improvements** is having a big impact on corridor mobility. We commend the WSDOT-local-tribal collaboration that made the new Johnson Road/SR 305 roundabout possible, a stellar example of intergovernmental cooperation with far-reaching benefits. More funding will complete the corridor and extend the benefits.

We're also encouraged by early signs of progress on the **SR 3 Freight Corridor project.** This shared endeavor between Mason County, the Belfair community, and WSDOT dates back to the 1960s! It is time for this legacy "Belfair Bypass" project to be completed and bring its mobility benefits and economic catalysts to north Mason County.

We also have our sights set on Sequim's **Simdars Road/US 101 Improvements** and Bremerton's **SR 3/Gorst-area Improvements**, both of which were funded in 2022's *Move Ahead WA* package. They will address two more long-standing mobility hotspots in the Peninsula Region, generating mobility and economic benefits for the region and state.

Safety is top of mind. As we come out of the pandemic, communities across the region are troubled by the pronounced spike in fatalities they see on our public roadways. We ask you to join us as we double-down on our shared goals of zero deaths and a safe system for all road users. We encourage your renewed support for safety funding programs and innovative partnerships to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our public facilities, minimize conflicts between motorized and non-motorized travelers, and tame state highways that serve as Main Streets through our local communities.

State investments provide critical support for local safety projects. More can be done. With your support, our local, state, and tribal partners can get it done.



Make smarter use of federal funds. Thanks to your support for smarter use of federal funds, a **funding swap pilot program** was established in the 2023 session but it **needs to be of a longer duration** for any of our members to participate. A progress report to the Legislature in December 2024 is premature. We encourage you to **extend this pilot program through 2026**. This will give Local Programs the time it needs to work out implementation details and enable a selection of small, federally funded local projects from rural counties to participate in the program before an evaluation on the pilot program's effectiveness is sent to the Legislature.

There's more on our radar. Over this next year PRTPO is exploring regional issues and opportunities our communities face between now and 2050. Expect to hear more from us this next year on:

- **Hood Canal Bridge policies regarding opening for large recreational sailing vessels**
  We are working to develop an estimate of the average vehicle hours of delay and economic impacts to the traveling public attributed to opening the bridge for large sailboats. This is information the Legislature and Coast Guard can use to review and update if necessary the current policies and standards governing bridge openings for recreational vessels.
- **Puget Sound to Pacific Trail coordinated planning**
  A collaboration of several regional members received a federal RAISE grant to complete a coordinated planning effort that will fill in gaps in the Sound to Olympics Trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail. This will queue up construction-ready projects that establish a non-motorized route from ferry terminals on Bainbridge Island to La Push on the Pacific coast.
- **EV-readiness and resilience in rural regions**
  PRTPO's local and tribal members are forging new relationships with Public Utility Districts, EV charging companies and vendors, and other stakeholders working to expand the region's capacity to support the transition to clean, renewable energy. Together they are tapping new rural economic opportunities while reducing the region's GHG emissions and fossil fuel dependence.
- **Restoration of traditional ferry service scheduling**
  State of good repair for ferries is essential to safe and reliable operation of our marine highway system. Being "one boat down" is a chronic situation for travel to and from Bremerton and Port Townsend, with implications for people, goods, and services across the region. Restoration of regular service is overdue.
- **Broadband makes a difference**
  Thank you for your ongoing support for equitable, expansive broadband access. That means a lot in a highly rural region such as ours. We still have a way to go but our members report increasing access for their constituents and employers. Your legislative support helps Washington secure important federal funding that is extending the reach of this effort into hard-to-serve rural areas.

We appreciate your interest and support for priority regional concerns and look forward to working with you.

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PRTPO 2024 *Transportation Outlook*

Transportation Investment Needs in the Peninsula Region

Project	Agency	LD#	Total Cost	Already Secured
SR 108/Old Olympic Highway Safety Project Install (2) compact roundabouts at US 101/SR 108 ramp terminals and construct non-motorized pathway with pedestrian lighting through interchange.	Squaxin Island Tribe / WSDOT	35	$ 3.3 M	$0
SR 3 Freight Corridor (Belfair Bypass) Construct new corridor parallel to SR 3 in Belfair, providing alternate route and improved freight access. This is a *Connecting WA* project. Though it has funding commitments, it remains a PRTPO priority concern until built.	WSDOT / Mason County	35	$78.9 M	$78.9 M
SR 3/16 Gorst Project - Resiliency, Mainline Capacity, & Non-Motorized Connectivity Improve SR 3/16 in Gorst. This is a *Move Ahead WA* project.	Kitsap County	26, 35	$425 M	$74.0 M
Sedgwick Rd/SR 160 Corridor Improvements Design and construct near-term improvements described in WSDOT's 2018 SR 16 Corridor Congestion Relief Study.	Port Orchard	26	$6.0 M	$0
SR 305 Construction - Safety & Mobility Construct safety and mobility improvements at 12 locations on SR 305 from the Bainbridge ferry terminal to Hostmark St in Poulsbo. Four locations have been funded in whole or in part. Additional funds are needed to address other corridor locations.This is a *Connecting WA* project.	WSDOT	26, 23	$78 M	$40.3 M
Sound to Olympics (STO) Trail - Sakai Pond to Madison Ave Segment Complete the next half-mile segment of the STO Trail connecting the Sakai Pond segment to Madison Avenue.	Bainbridge Island	26,23	$3.5 M	$0.5 M
Olympic Discovery Trail - Forks to La Push Complete next 13 mile segment of the ODT connecting Forks to La Push and the Quileute Nation, and Olympic National Park coastal trailheads.	Clallam County	24	$13 M	$7.6 M
SR 19 Chimacum Rhody Drive Ped-Bike Improvements Construct pedestrian/bicycle facilities along SR 19 from HJ Carroll County Park to Chimacum Crossroad.	Jefferson County	24	$1.8 M	$0.3 M
Puget Sound to Pacific Trail - Planning and Design Complete planning and design for a 200 mile trail corridor from the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal to La Push, connecting and completing the Olympic Discovery Trail and Sound to Olympics Trail. Port Angeles received a RAISE grant to lead multi-agency coordination for this 13-agency project	Port Angeles w 12 local, tribal, and state project partners	24, 26, 23	$16.1 M	$16.1 M
SR 117 Truck Route at US 101 Interchange Improvement Enable full directionality at interchange, reconfiguring interchange to improve efficient freight access and overall safety, minimize conflicts with other uses.	Port Angeles	24	$ 7.8 M	$0.26 M
SR 104 Kingston Congestion Mitigation Construct SR 104 realignment from Main Street and congestion/safety improvements. Though it has funding commitments, until it is built it will remain a PRTPO priority concern.	Kitsap County	23	$20 M	$20.0 M
Noll Road Corridor Improvements Three phases of corridor projects will improve multimodal mobility, increase system safety, and improve traffic flow along SR 305 corridor.	Poulsbo	23	$33.1 M	$22.7 M

Pavement Preservation, Asset Management, and State of Good Repair

PRTPO stands with its local, state, and tribal partners in reiterating the need for adequate, predictable funding to preserve and maintain the existing transportation system - streets and highways, bridges, ferry terminals and vessels, transit vehicles and infrastructure, trails and pathways, sidewalks, airport runways, port terminals, and technology. Existing revenues are insufficient and unreliable for maintaining a State of Good Repair across the region.