

Public Transportation Plan update

Understanding Needs and Gaps

Coby Zeifman, transportation planner

September 20, 2023

What is the Public Transportation Plan and why are we updating it?

- The plan moves our state toward a more integrated, multimodal transportation system that meets the needs of growing and thriving communities.
- The plan guides public transportation priorities, planning, and investments in Washington.
- We need to update the 2016 plan so that it reflects the conditions that have changed since it was published.



2016 goals

- Thriving communities
- Access
- Adaptive transportation capacity
- Customer experience
- Transportation system guardianship



Planning at WSDOT

Public investments in transportation should achieve these policy goals:

- Economic vitality
- Preservation
- Safety
- Mobility
- Environment
- Stewardship



Corridors



Local



Metropolitan regional

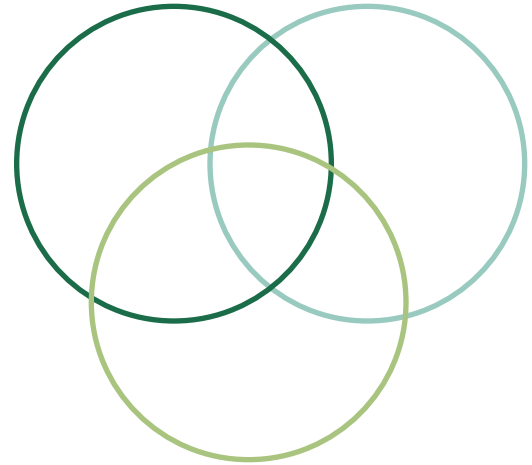


Statewide

Three new studies in 2023

- **Non-driver study**
- **Frequent transit service study**
- **Unmet needs study**

All three mention public transportation as a builder of strong communities that provides access to jobs, healthcare, and community.



High-level findings

Public transportation services do not exist everywhere and are not adequate anywhere for all riders.

Access to transportation services and ease of use varies based on race, age, disability status, geography, and income level.

Transportation issues and burdens disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

High-level findings (cont.)

Improvements to mobility can be made with adequate resources, coordination between levels of government, and adaptive planning.

Although infrastructure barriers to transit trips exist for non-drivers, these barriers can be prioritized and specifically targeted.

Critical access to transportation is provided by other forms of mobility besides fixed route, such as demand response, paratransit, walking, biking, and rolling.

Data findings

500,000 people over 16 do not have a driver's license.

34% of households fall below the ALICE threshold.

10% of people in poverty.

45% of non-drivers will skip going somewhere or be late because of transportation issues.

29 million trips are not taken due to transportation issues.

29 million forgone trips

Lost opportunities to thrive:

- Lack of access to jobs, education, healthcare, and housing.
- Isolation and lack of belonging in the community.



*From the Disability Mobility Initiative:
Nancy and her sons in Wishkah*

Potential paths forward

Low-income populations ride for free.

Frequent and weekend service.

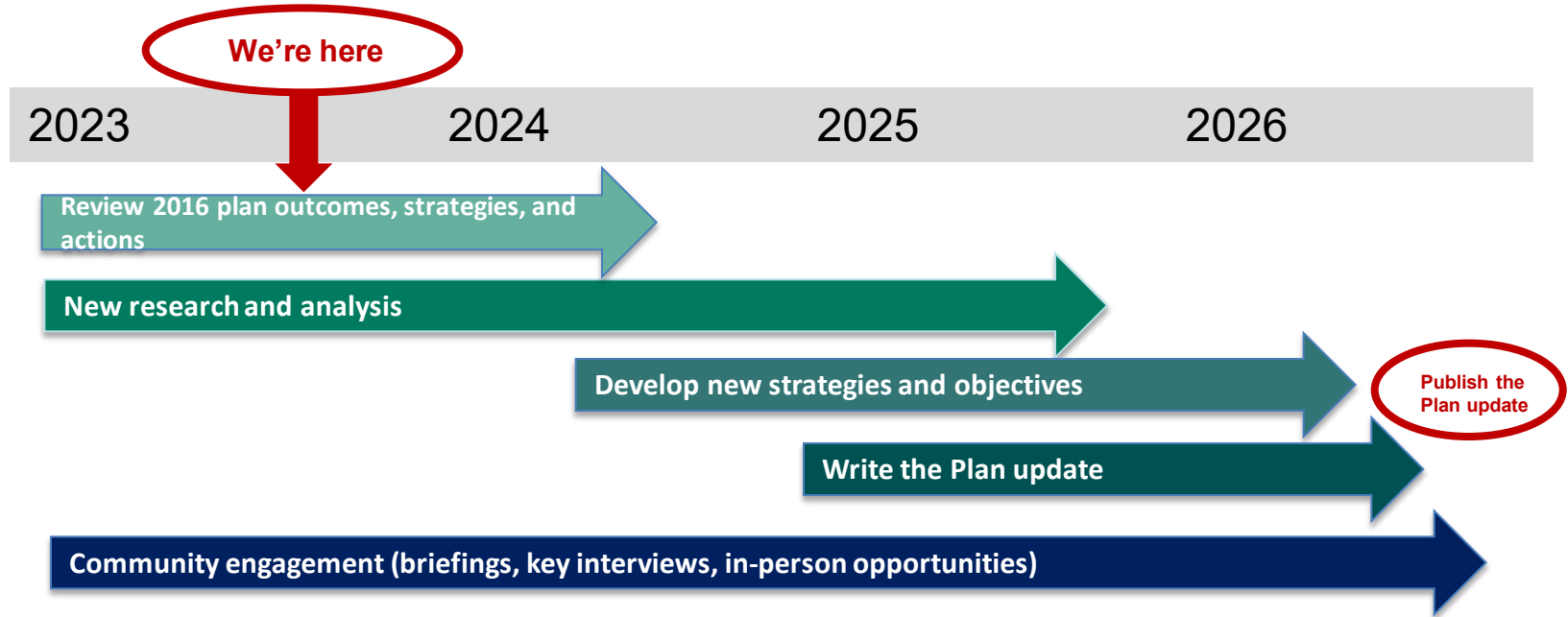
Regular intercity and rural service.

Jobs and affordable housing located together.

More walking and biking paths and transit-friendly roadways.

More demand-response service.

Public Transportation Plan update timeline



Discussion questions

What are you seeing in your communities with regard to access?

As we consider this information, what else should we be looking for and thinking about?

Thank you!

Coby Zeifman

Public Transportation Division

Transportation Planner

Phone: 206-716-1103

Email: coby.zeifman@wsdot.wa.gov

Monica Ghosh

Public Transportation Division

Project Manager

Phone: 360-810-0131

Email: monica.ghosh@wsdot.wa.gov

**Public
Transportation
Plan update:
open house page**

