

Transportation Strategic Plan Update

Executive Summary of the October 12, 2004 Staff Draft

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is pleased to present the Draft Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP) for your review. The TSP is SDOT's 20-year functional work plan, describing the actions SDOT will take to accomplish the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan and the Puget Sound Regional Council's Destination 2030 plan.

This summary of the full staff draft is designed to give a high level overview of the TSP Update. Copies of the full plan can be found on the SDOT website at www.seattle.gov/transportation/tsphome.htm.

Why Update the TSP?

Get Seattle Moving

SDOT is presenting this Draft TSP for public input in recognition of Mayor Nickels' emphasis to get Seattle moving. Mayor Nickels has declared that transportation will continue to be a priority for our economy, the environment, and the people who live in Seattle. In order for businesses to thrive, generating jobs and tax revenues, we must be able to move goods and people around the region efficiently. The TSP Update helps to define the transportation-related components of the Mayor's priorities, to address key transportation issues raised by the City Council about the long-term and day-to-day operations of Seattle's transportation system, and to instigate change within the Seattle Department of Transportation.

Define SDOT's Role in Implementing Citywide Transportation Goals and Policies

The TSP describes the actions SDOT will take to accomplish the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan over the next twenty years. The strategies, actions and guidelines for prioritizing projects described in the plan enable SDOT to get the best return on taxpayer dollars spent on transportation.

Bringing Together Resources for Transportation Planning

The TSP brings together the resources needed for transportation planning, project development and funding. Many of these resources, such as Seattle's street classification maps and definitions, currently exist but are not readily available. Once combined, these resources make it easier for SDOT and the community to see the full picture of Seattle's transportation system.

Last Updated in 1998--Changing Priorities and Many Accomplishments

Since 1998 the City of Seattle has seen much change and growth. Many of the 1998 TSP strategies have been accomplished. For example, LINK Light Rail has broken ground, "The Ave" has been completely rebuilt, and Flexcar, Seattle's car sharing program, has more than 130 vehicles in 20 Seattle neighborhoods. Many TSP strategies are now ongoing efforts integral to SDOT work plans, and others have not been implemented due to lack of funding or changing priorities. SDOT and our partners are facing a new set of projects, programs and services, all of which are described in the TSP Update. This brochure provides a high-level summary of the TSP. See the back page for information on how to get a copy of the draft plan.



Seattle Department of Transportation

Grace Crunican, Director
Greg Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Department of Transportation

The Draft Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP) Update: Transportation Principles and Summary of TSP Strategies

Make the best use of the streets we have to move people, goods and services.

Seattle's street system is largely complete, and the opportunity to add new links is limited. We need to make the best use of existing rights-of-way to move people, goods and services.

Strategies include clearly defining the role and function of each street in the transportation network and how it should respond to the land uses surrounding it, optimizing roadways to best move people, goods and services, supporting neighborhood traffic control, and effectively managing Seattle's rights-of-way through the Right-of-Way Management Program.

Make the most of transportation investments.

Leverage investments, both public and private, used in transportation projects to get the best return on taxpayer transportation dollars.

Strategies define how SDOT will prioritize transportation programs and projects to maximize benefits from limited revenues, steps to maximize available funding resources, means for improving efficiencies and cost effectiveness in all projects and direction on how SDOT can develop new funding resources.

Encourage walking and biking—they're the easy, healthy way to get around.

Construct transportation improvements that make bicycling and walking safe, attractive, easy, and convenient forms of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

Strategies in these elements focus on ways to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, encourage more walking and bicycling by providing the facilities needed to use these modes comfortably. Crossings, walkways, bicycle parking and routine accommodation for pedestrians and bicycles throughout the transportation network are all described.

Increase transportation options.

Cars will continue to be an important part of the transportation system. While recognizing that driving will be made by car, lessen dependence on cars. Strive for a more balanced transportation system with people viable alternatives to driving alone, including bicycling and walking.

Strategies include projects and programs to manage transportation demand such as car sharing, the Car program, assuring that transportation is managed in the major transportation projects and efforts of businesses to promote telecommuting as viable alternatives for Seattle's citizens.

Promote freight and regional economic access.

Support policies and programs that support regional economic access to goods efficiently. Support policies and programs that support regional economic access.

This element includes strategies developed for the Strategic Plan including rail, guide signing, street benefit of trucks, communication via the Seattle Freight and other outreach.

Price and manage parking wisely.

Price and manage parking to support healthy business districts and transit use. Manage curb space to recognize the importance of principle arterials in moving people, goods and services.

Strategies focus on coordinating citywide parking efforts, implementing new pay station technology, managing on and off street parking supplies to support the needs of adjacent businesses and residents, increasing enforcement and making better use of off-street parking and transportation demand management tools.

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Connect to the region. Build a multi-modal transportation system to serve the city and connect to the region. Work with partners to ensure that Seattle's regional interests are met and that the regional transportation system supports smart growth.

Strategies focus on how to work more effectively with Seattle's federal, state and local partners to assure that the city's needs are met in the design and construction of regional transportation projects. This element also recognizes the critical role Seattle's local transportation network plays in supporting businesses, industry and maritime trade that is vital to both the City and region's economy.

the economy by moving and goods.

Support local and economic vitality by moving freight and to, from, and through the city. and actions that improve freight

Includes the strategies and actions of the Freight Mobility Strategic Action Plan: road grade separations, truck and street improvements for the and other modes, and ongoing work with the Seattle freight community through the Freight Mobility Advisory Committee.

Make transit a real choice. Make transit a fast, reliable, safe and convenient choice. Connect transit systems to each other and to other modes—such as biking and walking—to increase the usefulness of the whole transportation system for Seattle and the region.

The TSP Transit strategies are a subset of the information included in the Draft Seattle Transit Plan (anticipated completion in early 2005). The TSP strategies are city-wide in scale and not specific to a transit technology. They describes necessary actions to make transit a viable choice for Seattle's citizens including establishing an Urban Village Transit Network and taking steps to improve transit speed and reliability. This section also defines transit performance measures.

Improve our environment. Incorporate environmental considerations into every decision to affect a positive change in the environment, Seattle's neighborhoods and public health.

Strategies in this element offer direction so that SDOT can help manage and improve the Puget Sound environment. To do this, the department must incorporate environmental considerations into every decision to effect a dramatic change in our environment, our neighborhoods and our health. Strategies include sustainable design, activities that assure SDOT is in compliance with environmental requirements and those activities that go beyond compliance to accomplish our environmental mission.

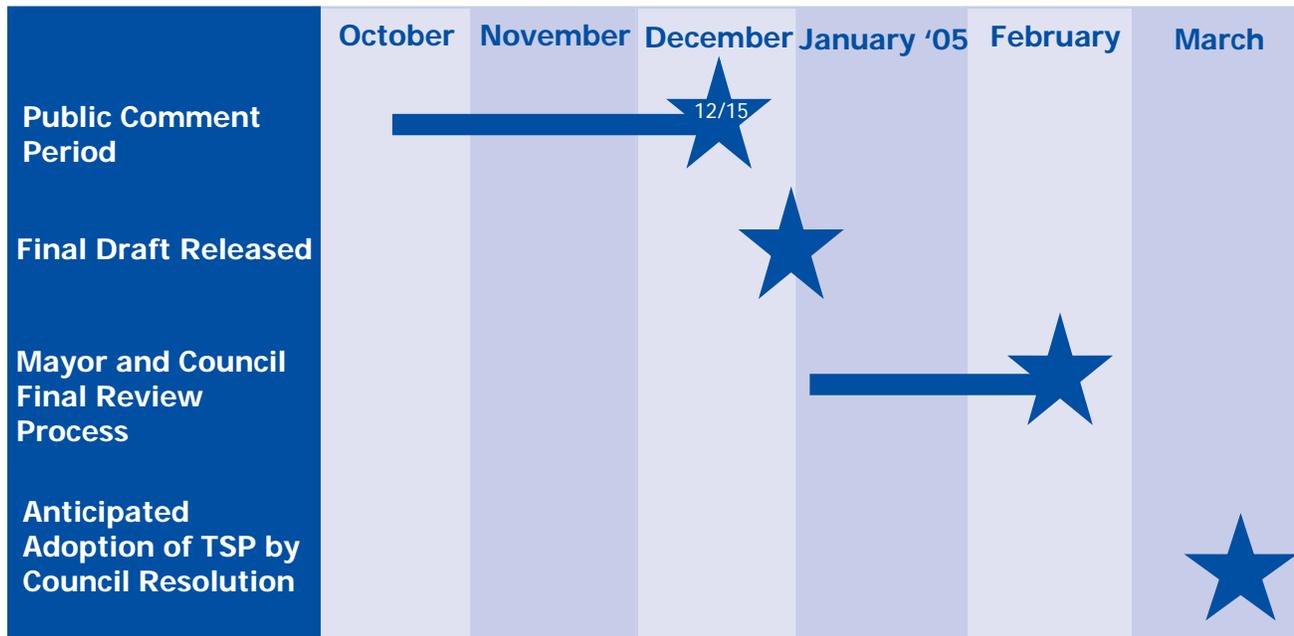
Protect our infrastructure. Get the best return on taxpayers' transportation dollars already invested by maintaining Seattle's infrastructure and keep it operating safely, smoothly and in good repair.

Strategies focus on what is needed to preserve and maintain Seattle's transportation infrastructure including roadways, bridges and other structures, signals, trees and landscaping, cleaning and emergency response. This element also describes key strategies in Seattle's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan.

Opportunities for Involvement

We welcome your comments and your support as we move forward with this important effort. Please fill out a copy of the Draft Transportation Strategic Plan Feedback Form that is attached to this brochure. You can also get a copy of the feedback form at the TSP website www.seattle.gov/transportation/tsphome.htm

The schedule for review and approval of the Draft TSP is as follows:



In October, November and early December, SDOT staff will be available to attend District Council, community, and business group meetings upon request. If your group would like a briefing, please call Barbara Gray at 206-615-0872 or email at barbara.gray@seattle.gov.

Get Your Own Copy of the Draft TSP

Additional copies of the Draft TSP are available from SDOT, 700 5th Ave., 38th Floor, Seattle WA. They can also be obtained on-line at www.seattle.gov/transportation/tsphome.htm or by calling 206-684-8542. Copies are also available at the Seattle Public Libraries and the Neighborhood Service Centers.

Thanks again for your interest. Your comments will be reviewed and addressed as part of the TSP Update presented to City Council for its review in the 1st quarter of 2005.

Need Information about Transportation in Seattle...

SDOT builds, maintains and operates Seattle's \$8 billion transportation infrastructure. To further Mayor Nickels' goal to get Seattle moving, SDOT manages short- and long-term investments in streets, bridges, pavement and trees, that better connect the city with the region.

To learn more about SDOT: visit our website at www.seattle.gov/transportation

General Contact Number: (206) 684-ROAD

Pothole and Street Repair 24-Hour Hotline: (206) 386-1218

Street Sign and Traffic Signal Repair: (206) 386-1206

This information will be provided in alternative formats to persons with disabilities upon request. Call TTY (206) 684-4009



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