



whatcom council of governments

Whatcom Council of Governments UPWP Annual Performance & Expenditure Report

State Fiscal Year 2026

Title VI & Americans with Disabilities Act

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Introduction

This annual report covers work completed by the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. The report summarizes progress made on tasks detailed in WCOG's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) approved by the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board on May 14, 2025.

In a format that relates to the approved UPWP, this report compares the fiscal year's performance with established goals and notes progress in meeting planned schedules. A separate table, also corresponding to WCOG's SFY 2026 UPWP, is included at the end of the report and compares budgeted funding amounts with actual costs incurred.

Organization of this report

This report directly references WCOG's approved SFY 2026 UPWP. For each UPWP *core function*, subsections cover each related *activity* and report on progress towards the planned work and products.

Program administration

The following administrative activities directly support the FHWA & FTA Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funded activities.

Professional development & staff training

Products	Progress
New software capabilities (e.g. traffic modeling, contact management)	Acclimating with a new contact management system. Preparing for model upgrade.
Planning practices (e.g. ITS architecture, performance measures, sustainability, plan development)	AICP continuing credits courses
Ongoing staff development.	Staff participated in informational and best practices webinars. • WA APA meetings • AMPO sessions • NW WA GIS Meetings • FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series • Title VI trainings • Accessibility trainings

Coordination and communication with federal and state legislators

Products	Progress
Written briefings or meetings in response to requests for information or data analysis.	None requested in 2026
Review of existing planning products – project lists, etc.	None requested in 2026

Preparation for participation of state and federal legislators and their staff at WCOG and MPO board meetings.	Continued correspondence and engagement on the upcoming federal transportation re-authorization
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Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Products	Progress
Completed UPWP and amendments if needed.	Completed

UPWP Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

Products	Progress
Complete annual report.	Completed

Title VI reporting and plan update

Products	Progress
Annual Title VI report.	Completed

Self-certification document

Products	Progress
Complete review and documentation	Completed

Transportation planning & programs

This core function includes ongoing regional communication and coordination, understanding and documenting system needs, and supporting implementation of selected strategies.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan update and strategy

Products	Progress
Application of updated plan elements to continuous regional planning activities. Including the development of high-cost projects that likely be funded from federal discretionary programs.	Elements of the plan that began development in 2026: review of regional goals, review plan chapters and scheduling, and the public engagement opportunity to provide feedback via <i>Transportation 2050</i> webpage.
Continued maintenance and improvement of the website dedicated to the regional/metropolitan transportation plan – especially visualization resources like maps and data filtering.	Developed new webpage for the upcoming regional transportation plan update.
Continued collaboration with WSDOT to make best use of data reporting products developed for state-wide and regional monitoring of safety and system performance measures and targets.	Continued as expected.
Continued development and application of regional, inter-jurisdictional corridor planning strategy.	No updates for 2026. System performance measures based on the regional corridors are refreshed every other year.
Increased attention to the region's non-motorized network (bike & ped facilities, trails)	GIS layers updated to maintain current network.

Continued improvement and updates of analytical products (e.g., model configurations, mapping outputs, metrics selection.	Began preparations for the upcoming plan update due in 2027.
Work with the CTAG, tribal representatives, and with other stakeholders to implement appropriate elements of WCOG's public participation plan.	Continued sponsoring CTAG meetings along with WTA .

Regional & statewide activities with WSDOT & other MPO members

Products	Progress
Coordinating committee meets quarterly to discuss process improvements and needed focus on current issues among the state's MPO, RTP, and WSDOT representatives	Participated in all meetings.
Monthly Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) meetings	Completed
Periodic development of Whatcom Transportation Policy Board (WTPB)-approved selection criteria, project evaluation, and WTPB selection of projects to fund with the STBG funding available to MPOs.	No project selection process in 2026.
Participation in periodic meetings of regional planners.	Completed
Participation and collaboration with various studies, research, and data collection with state and regional partners.	Worked with WSDOT area office to evaluate options for improved vehicle counting on state routes at county(transportation model) boundaries
Participation in state or inter-regional planning activities.	Participation on Highway System Plan Advisory Committee and continued coordination on VMT reporting.

Monitoring of federal and state funding programs

Products	Progress
Review of new federal formula programs including Carbon Reduction, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, and PROTECT.	Limited efforts needed.
Review of new and continuing federal discretionary funding programs (Infra, RAISE)	None for 2026. Monitoring proposals for upcoming federal re-authorization
Review of new state programs for transit and active transportation.	Completed

Public and stakeholder participation and outreach

Products	Progress
The Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) is WCOG's structured forum for ongoing citizen participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process. CTAG is collaboratively organized with the Whatcom	Work completed with WTA.

Transportation Authority and other member jurisdictions as pertinent regional issues emerge.	
Websites – WCOG maintains high quality websites (www.wcog.org) in order to provide broader and more convenient access to information, meeting schedules, staff contacts, and more. This is an important way of supporting and improving public involvement and openness of regional planning and decision making.	Website updated for WCAG compliance; public participation pages added as needed.
Participation in other regional transportation planning forums North Sound Transportation Alliance.	Regular meetings conducted.
Outreach to and involvement of private sector stakeholders (industry associations, companies, etc.) for special projects or modal planning efforts.	Presentations on regional transportation planning topics given by WCOG to the Whatcom County Council's Business and Commerce advisory committee.

Performance Reporting

Products	Progress
Regional system performance report every two years. Includes: - Regional measures adopted by MPOs and WSDOT - Multimodal performance measures and indicators developed by WCOG	Development of system report's update began in 2026 and will continue into SFY 2027.
Collection of data and maintenance of web-based dashboard visualization tool	Ongoing

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan / Architecture

Products	Progress
Periodic updates to Regional ITS Architecture	No activity in SFY 2026
Systems engineering training and integration of principles into related planning, operations, and performance measurement initiatives.	No activity in SFY 2026

Cross-border planning & coordination – The IMTC Program

Products	Progress
IMTC working group meetings -- preparation, participation, and facilitation.	All scheduled meetings were conducted.
Data collection and reporting	Updates of time series data. Maintenance of Border Data Warehouse. Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey project completed. Early data analysis for FIFA 2026 completed.
Participation in the U.S.-Canada Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG)	Attendance and participation at TBWG meetings. Regular participation on TBWG Steering Committee.
Ongoing stakeholder outreach to federal inspection agencies, state/provincial transportation agencies,	Regular activities undertaken

local agencies, other government departments, and private sector stakeholders.	
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Transportation Demand Management – Smart Trips

Products	Progress
Community outreach	Completed
Maintain website & online trip diary: www.whatcomsmarttrips.org .	Completed. Online app with new features in development.
Incentives	Continued and completed
Employer programs and compliance with the state's commute trip reduction (CTR) law	Completed
Mobility Management/Travel Training	Completed
Administration	Completed

Planning technical support for member jurisdictions

Products	Progress
WCOG staff works with member jurisdictions to provide technical support on planning activities, projects, and work related to core functions. • Research • Data extraction and analysis • Technical writing • Mapping / GIS • Graphics • Sample surveys	• Research into grant eligibilities, project funding histories, etc. • Continued collaboration with local governments and their consultants for comprehensive plan updates. • GIS / mapping support

Review of transportation planning requirements

Products	Progress
Updated methods and work planning	Completed

North Sound Transportation Alliance

Products	Progress
During SFY 2026, participants in NSTA updated NSTA goals and strategies: through the sharing of best practices and learning about regional projects, NSTA strives to develop better ways for people to travel in the region without a personal vehicle. NSTA supports coordination among: regional transportation planning organizations, local governments, transit agencies, non-governmental organizations, and WA State Dept. of Transportation with a focus on dependable and efficient travel without a personal vehicle, and improving quality of life, tourism, and economic development.	Completed

Maintenance of the regional transportation demand model

Products	Progress
Develop a preferred/final forecast model scenario (2045) under the SEPA that will apply to the Comprehensive Plan update.	Completed

Replace the current 2045 forecast model scenario developed in WCOG Way to Go, Whatcom MTP with the updated preferred alternative forecast	Shifted approach to set-up 2045 as basis for the 2050 forecast
Prepare 2025 model base year update: household and employment, transit, calibration and validation that incorporates 2025 HTS, traffic counts, and externals	Underway – began demographics and network updates
Upgrade model features with modern approaches to trip generation, trip distribution, non-home based trip makings, local network assessment for VMT, and refine outputs for VMT reporting and sensitivity testing	Underway. Transitioning to activity-based model platform to modernize model and application

Household Travel Survey

Products	Progress
Conduct region-wide household travel questionnaire and survey to attain residential demographics information and daily travel behaviors.	Completed

Development and maintenance of geographic information systems (GIS)

Products	Progress
Map making, data assembly and storage, online interactive map maintenance, and other regional products	Completed

Evaluation and Acquisition of new data (counters, LBS, connected vehicle, etc.)

Products	Progress
Traffic count services, video capture & analysis, sensors/detectors.	Completed (FGTS season). Coordinated traffic counters and data acquired by local jurisdictions.
Data sets	No new acquisitions
Analysis, visualizations, data dashboards, GIS integration.	Ongoing

Federal functional classification system updates

Products	Progress
Standardized and update functionally classified regional road network with the 2020 Census adjusted urban and rural area geographies	Completed. Coordinated Whatcom County-Urban area classification review, feedback, and confirmed revisions.
Work with TTAG and WSDOT to modify adjusted urban areas in response to 2020 Census and FHWA's subsequent adjustment of urban areas for functional classification	Completed

Border Data Warehouse 3.0 operation and maintenance

Products	Progress
Maintain existing warehouse. Update web-based user interface.	Completed

RTPO planning

Certify consistency between RTP and local comprehensive plan transportation elements

Products	Progress
Certification of comprehensive plan	Staff reviews completed (certification for the WTPB scheduled for October 2026). Countywide planning policies were certified by the WTPB.

Human services transportation planning

Products	Progress
Outreach and stakeholder interviews as part of updating the HSTP	Completed
Review of HSTP goals and strategies	Ongoing
Development of an HSTP/Consolidated Grant Advisory Committee	Completed
Complete a draft HSTP	Ongoing

Level of Service (LOS) coordination and standard setting

Products	Progress
Possible identification of new, regionally aligned definitions and measures of levels of transportation system operations (LOS) and possible changes to regional LOS standards for non-HSS state routes.	Process initiated with TTAG members building on earlier discussions document in WCOG's regional plan.

Improving VMT Measurement, Forecasting, and Target Setting

Products	Progress
Develop a data-acquisition strategy with WTA and other, pursue a pooled-fund for vehicle detection equipment at Whatcom-Skagit border	Collaborated with WSDOT to use Miovision technology to capture both northbound and southbound activity at I-5 county border.
Identify strategies to improve VMT sensitivity by refining model structure and/or through post processing TDF model outputs	Continuing. WCOG preparing transition to new model platform in SFY 2027.
Documentation and assessment of the VMT-related activities	On-going

Programming

TIP development & amendments

Products	Progress
Annually completed and approved Metropolitan & Regional TIP. Certifications as needed. Appropriate project amendments and modifications as needed throughout the year.	Completed

Obligation status monitoring and reporting

Products	Progress
Compilation of ongoing project status from member jurisdictions.	Completed
Periodic reports to WSDOT	Completed
Status reports to member jurisdictions and the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board to encourage timely obligation.	Completed
Annual list of project obligations report	Completed

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program – Regional Funding Project Selection Process

Products	Progress
Award letters following July approval of selections by the Policy Board	Not applicable for 2026. Award letters provided for contingency projects.
Annual list of project obligations report	Completed

Appendices

Appendix A – Planned and Actual Expenditures

		SFY 2026 Budget							
		Federal			State		Local	Canadian	Total
Work categories		FHWA/FTA CPG	FHWA STBG UM	Other	RTPO	Other			
Program administration	Budgeted	33,201	14,135	-	2,663	-	5,867	-	55,866
	Expended	5,629	29,549	-	14,049	-	5,491	-	54,718
Transportation planning & programs	Budgeted	578,423	240,302	652,000	46,942	288,700	237,909	13,500	2,057,776
	Expended	216,045	236,915	681,701	116,377	326,674	233,592	-	1,811,304
RTPO planning	Budgeted	-	-	10,000	39,942	-	-	-	49,942
	Expended	-	-	-	18,067	44,281	-	-	62,348
Programming	Budgeted	66,403	28,271	-	6,213	-	26,507	-	127,394
	Expended	9,998	16,211	-	19,138	-	4,090	-	49,437
Total	Budgeted	678,027	282,708	662,000	95,760	288,700	270,283	13,500	2,290,978
	Expended	231,672	282,675	681,701	167,631	370,955	243,173	-	1,977,807