



whatcom council of governments

# Whatcom Council of Governments UPWP Annual Performance & Expenditure Report

## State Fiscal Year 2025

### **Title VI & Americans with Disabilities Act**

The Whatcom Council of Governments ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities.

For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Compliant Form, call Melissa Fanucci, program coordinator at (360) 685-8385.

---

# Contents

Contents..... 1

Introduction ..... 1

Organization of this report ..... 1

    Program administration..... 1

    UPWP Annual Performance and Expenditure Report ..... 2

    Title VI reporting and plan update..... 2

    Self-certification document..... 2

    Transportation planning & programs..... 2

    Cross-border planning & coordination - The IMTC Program ..... 4

    Data collection and analysis ..... 6

    RTPO planning..... 7

    Improving VMT Measurement, Forecasting, and Target Setting ..... 7

    Programming..... 8

    Appendix A - Planned and Actual Expenditures ..... 9

---

# Introduction

This annual report covers work completed by the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. 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 8, 2024.

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 2025 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 2025 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 PL and 5303 funded activities.

### Professional development & staff training

Products	Progress
New software capabilities (e.g. traffic modeling, contact management)	Acclimating with new contact management system. Preparing for model upgrade.
Planning practices (ITS architecture, performance measures)	AICP continuing credits courses.
Ongoing staff development.	Staff participated in informational and best practices webinars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WA APA meetings</li><li>• AMPO sessions</li><li>• NW WA GIS Meetings</li><li>• FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series</li><li>• Webinars related to Smart Trips program</li></ul>

### 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 2025
Review of existing planning products – project lists, etc.	No requests of MPO in 2025
Preparation for participation of state and federal legislators and their staff at WCOG and MPO board meetings.	Participated in meetings with legislative representatives and staff, and drafted a letter regarding regional priorities for the upcoming federal transportation re-authorization

---

## 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
Updated MTP	Ongoing work as expected (5-yr update was completed in SFY 2022, amended 2023).
Continued maintenance and improvement of the website dedicated to the regional/metropolitan transportation plan – especially visualization resources like maps and data filtering.	Performed as expected. Merged MTP website into an updated WCOG website
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.	Performed as expected. Examples include ongoing sharing of crash data, updates to safety targets.
Continued development and application of regional, inter-jurisdictional corridor planning strategy.	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 maintenance.
Continued improvement and updates of analytical products (e.g., model configurations, mapping outputs, metrics selection.	Model changes and upgrades completed for work with local jurisdictions on city and county comprehensive plan updates.
Work with the CTAG, tribal representatives, and with other stakeholders to implement appropriate elements of WCOG’s public participation plan.	Continued sponsoring CTAG meetings with WTA .

## Safety Action Plan (SS4A)

Products	Progress
Formation and facilitation of a regional Safety Action Plan advisory committee – emphasizing involvement of non-traditional partners.	Completed.
Safety data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compilation and analysis of existing data.</li> <li>• Research and acquisition of reliable demographic data</li> </ul>	Completed.
Public outreach and engagement.	Completed
Development of a project evaluation methodology	Completed
Preparation of a complete Safety Action Plan inclusive of a prioritized project list	Plan completed and adopted.

## 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, RTPO, 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 availed to MPOs.	STBG and TA selection criteria updated. Project selection for 2025 Call for Projects completed July 2025 to allocate 2030-2031 STBG and TA funds.
Participation in periodic meetings of regional planners.	Completed
Participation with WSDOT and regional members regarding integration of MAP-21 performance measures and regional metrics.	Participation in WSDOT meetings to confirm target setting methodology for state-wide safety performance (Target 0).
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 planning activities:	Participation on Highway System Plan Advisory Committee and on VMT-study committee.

## 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)	Not needed.
Review of new state programs for transit and active transportation.	Completed

## Performance reporting

Products	Progress
Products include a report document and a web-based dashboard that supports data filtering and visualization.	Preparing for 2026

## Public and stakeholder participation and outreach

Products	Progress
The <b>Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)</b> is WCOG's structured forum for ongoing citizen participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process. CTAG is collaboratively organized with the Whatcom Transportation Authority and other member jurisdictions as pertinent regional issues emerge.	Work completed with WTA.
<b>Websites</b> – WCOG maintains high quality websites ( <a href="http://www.wcog.org">www.wcog.org</a> ) 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.	Work completed. Website overall research and planning also undertaken and on the schedule.
Participation in other regional transportation planning forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Sound Transportation Alliance.</li> </ul>	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.

## Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan / Architecture

Products	Progress
Periodic updates to Regional ITS Architecture	No activity in SFY 2025
Systems engineering training and integration of principles into related planning, operations, and performance measurement initiatives.	Applied to project development and consultant management for border wait time system development project.

## 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. Planning for upcoming personal vehicle survey. Early data analysis for FIFA 2026 planning.
Participation in the U.S.-Canada Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG)	Attendance and participation at two 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.	
--	--

### Transportation Demand Management – Smart Trips

Products	Progress
Community outreach	Completed
Website & online trip diary: <a href="http://www.whatcomsmarttrips.org">www.whatcomsmarttrips.org</a> .	Continued and completed. Hired and worked with consultants to update the website.
Incentives:	Continued and completed.
Employer programs and compliance with the state’s commute trip reduction (CTR) law	Completed
Mobility Management/Travel Training	Completed
School programs	Completed
Administration	Completed

### Advanced Border Information System (ABIS) Design

Products	Progress
Concept of exploratory advisory team meeting	Completed December 2024
Concept Exploration and Recommendations Report	
Operational Scenarios User Workshop	
Concept of Operations and System Requirements Development	
Advisory Team meeting	
High-Level Design & Implementation Plan	

### Planning technical support for member jurisdictions

Products	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research</li> <li>● Data extraction and analysis</li> <li>● Technical writing</li> <li>● Mapping / GIS</li> <li>● Graphics</li> <li>● Sample surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research into grant eligibilities, project funding histories, etc.</li> <li>● Continued collaboration with local governments and their consultants for comprehensive plan updates.</li> <li>● GIS / map support</li> </ul>

### Review of transportation planning requirements

Products	Progress
Updated methods and work planning	Completed

### North Sound Transportation Alliance

Products	Progress
During SFY 2025, WCOG will continue its participation with the NSTA to coordinate support for inter-county transit between Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and Snohomish counties; advance strategies to improve cross-county transportation related to health care; support regionally connected trail planning and development; coordinate support for improving passenger rail; and improving multimodal connectivity with ferry terminals in the North Sound..	Completed.

# Data collection and analysis

## Maintenance of the regional transportation demand model

Products	Progress
•	
Develop, in coordination with Whatcom County and Cities and consultant, forecast model scenarios (2045) that incorporates geographical allocations of households and employment for the Environmental Review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	Completed
Develop a final forecast model scenario (2045) under the SEPA that will apply to the Comprehensive Plan update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the current forecast model scenario in WCOG Way to Go, Whatcom plan with the updated forecast</li> </ul>	Completed
Replace the current 2045 forecast model scenario developed in WCOG Way to Go, Whatcom MTP with the updated preferred alternative forecast	Fall 2025

## Household Travel Survey

Products	Progress
Project planning and scoping coordination with partner entities, writing request for proposals (RFP), advertising, and consultation selection.	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
Data sets	No new acquisitions
Analysis, visualizations, data dashboards, GIS integration.	Completed and 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	No requests for classification changes were submitted in SFY 2025.
Work with TTAG and WSDOT to modify adjusted urban areas in response to 2020 Census and	Completed

FHWA's subsequent adjustment of urban areas for functional classification	
---	--

### Border Data Warehouse 3.0 operation and maintenance

Products	Progress
Updated cloud storage systems. Updated web-based user interface.	Completed.

## RTPO planning

### Certify consistency between RTP and local comprehensive plan transportation elements

Products	Progress
Certification of comprehensive plan amendment	Updated and obtained board adoption of WCOG's policy for certification.

### Human services transportation planning

Products	Progress
Periodic review of and community outreach to optimize the composition of the HST Steering Committee	Completed
Review progress towards stated HSTP goals	Completed
Review of implementation of related HS projects funded by WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program	Regional application process initiated.
Ongoing engagement with HST Steering Committee and facilitated dialogue with other, related outreach efforts such as WCOG's CTAG	Completed

### 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	Completed. Acquired county border data through partnership with WSDOT
Identify strategies to improve VMT sensitivity by refining model structure and/or through post processing TDF model outputs	Schedule adjusted to 2026
Documentation and assessment of the VMT-related activities	Completed

---

# 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	Completed
Annual list of project obligations report	Completed

# Appendices

## Appendix A – Planned and Actual Expenditures

		SFY 2025 Budget								
		Federal				State		Local	Canadian	Total
Work categories		FHWA PL	FTA 5303	FHWA STBG UM	Other	RTPO	Other			
Program administration	Budgeted	27,757	4,986	14,570	-	2,663	-	7,383	-	57,359
	Expended	7,610	7,580	18,424	-	15,704	-	5,247	-	54,565
Transportation planning & programs	Budgeted	471,861	84,770	247,682	661,000	39,942	298,000	165,152	-	1,968,407
	Expended	272,744	40,938	262,754	556,033	95,284	188,169	183,703	28,249	1,627,874
RTPO planning	Budgeted	-	-	-	-	39,942	138,000	-	-	177,942
	Expended	-	-	-	-	4,297	68,519	-	-	72,816
Programming	Budgeted	35,513	9,973	29,139	-	6,213	-	11,646	-	92,484
	Expended	16,948	29,516	2,866	-	13,505	-	7,698	-	70,533
Total	Budgeted	535,131	99,729	291,391	661,000	88,760	436,000	184,181	-	2,296,192
	Expended	297,302	78,034	284,044	556,033	128,790	256,688	196,648	28,249	1,825,788