



# NSTA improves travel for people in our region.

We are a coalition of citizens, elected officials, and agency staff working to identify, advocate for, and fund important regional transportation initiatives that improve ways for people to travel through Washington State's five northwestern-most counties without reliance on personal vehicles.



Whatcom • Skagit • San Juan • Island • Snohomish






NSTA, formerly known as the North Sound Connecting Communities Program, or the "Farmhouse Gang", is managed by the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG). Originally funded by a grant from the WA State legislature in 1996, the Alliance has grown into a recognized leader in regional collaboration identifying, advocating for and funding important regional transportation initiatives.

Participation is voluntary and stakeholders meet several times a year to identify needs, align collaborative efforts, and advance strategies to improve the transportation network.

## Objectives

1. Collect travel and system data to identify needs and measure performance.
2. Improve regional connections and sustain and expand services.
3. Enhance mobility through sustainable, equitable, and innovative transportation solutions.
4. Inform the public about transportation services to enhance awareness of the regional transportation network.

## Focus areas

-  Transit and bus service
-  Passenger rail
-  Ferry service
-  Pedestrian & bicycle facilities
-  Health & transportation



**In 2018 we're developing an action list to pursue in partnership with the WA State Legislature and local agencies.**

## Participants

NSTA consists of public and private sector organizations, elected officials, and citizens. Specific stakeholders include:

- Amtrak Cascades
- Bike coalition representatives
- Cascadia Academy
- Community Transit
- Emergency medical services
- Everett Transit
- Ferry advisory committees
- Island County
- Island RTPO
- Island Transit
- Local municipalities
- Private transportation companies
- Regional health networks
- San Juan County
- Skagit Council of Governments
- Skagit County
- Skagit Transit
- Snohomish County
- U.S. Legislators
- WA State Dept. of Health
- WA State Dept. of Transportation
- WA State Ferries
- WA State Legislators
- Whatcom Council of Governments
- Whatcom County
- Whatcom Transportation Authority
- 2-1-1

## Recent Projects

NSTA, formerly known as the Farmhouse Gang, oversaw numerous initiatives to advance regional transportation goals.

**The Regional Transportation Governance Study** developed positive working relationships in North-west Washington to improve participant collaboration.

**The Intermodal Connections & Commuter Study** examined existing and future demand for work-based commuter transportation.

**The Traveler Information Kiosk System** established traveler information displays at major hubs around the region.

**The County Connector Project** links Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and Snohomish counties and beyond through connective transit services provided by Whatcom Transportation Authority, Skagit Transit, and Island Transit.

**The Bellingham - Friday Harbor Passenger Ferry Case Study** was a pilot project to demonstrate the viability of such a service.

