



NSTA improves travel in our region.

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



Whatcom • Skagit • San Juan • Island • Snohomish

Originally known as the "Farmhouse Gang" and funded by a grant from the WA State legislature in 1996, the North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) has grown into a recognized five-county collaborative. Stakeholders voluntarily meet several times a year to advance strategies that improve travel in the region.

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

WE NEED TO SUPPORT INTERCOUNTY
TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY NOW MORE
THAN EVER.



NSTA applies community-based consensus to optimizing regional transportation services residents depend on.

Top strategies

Identified by participants:

Health & Transportation Strategies

- Expand 2-1-1 to include links to transit agencies & transportation service providers
- Universal broadband for the entire five county region
- Study of on-demand transit feasibility for region
- Study feasibility of flyer stops/park-&-rides on I-5
- Implement/expand mobile medical health clinics

Ferry Priorities

- Analyze existing/needed regional ferry connections
- Increase passenger ferry service
- Support alternative services such as transportation network companies to improve last-mile access for travelers without vehicles
- Improve connections between ferries, transit, and rail
- Improve ridership growth in a sustainable manner

Transit Priorities

- Increase intercounty connector frequency
- Flyer stops on I-5
- On-demand transit
- Coordinated fares
- Bus meets ferry on ferry time
- Legislative changes to enable cross-jurisdictional transit funding

Active Transportation Priorities

- **Transportation** - safe and connected pathways
- **Public health** - equitable access to nature and cultural sites
- **Community vitality**
- **Environment** - including positive climate change impacts

Passenger Rail

- Increase number of daily Amtrak Cascades trips between Seattle and Bellingham/Vancouver, B.C.

Participants

NSTA convenes public and private sector organizations, elected representatives, and citizens. Specific stakeholders include:

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

