



TITLE VI ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GOALS REPORT

This outline is for LPA and other governmental entities to report Title VI activities that occurred over the past year and report Title VI goals for the upcoming year. Reports must be returned on or before due date to meet eligibility requirements for federal funding. Send to TitleVI@WSDOT.wa.gov

DUE DATES: Refer to Section 28.3 for scheduled reporting period and due date

Contact Information

Name and title of administrator (signature on Standard Assurances): [Hugh Conroy, Director](#)

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City: [Bellingham](#) WA Zip Code: [98225](#) County: [Whatcom](#)

Phone #: [\(360\) 685-8384](#) email address: hugh@wcog.org

Name and title of head of transportation-related services:

Mailing Address: [Same](#)

City: WA Zip Code: County:

Phone #: email address:

Name and title of designated Title VI coordinator*: [Melissa Fanucci, Principal Planner](#)

Mailing Address: [314 E. Champion St](#)

City: [Bellingham](#) WA Zip Code: [98225](#) County: [Whatcom](#)

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*When the Title VI coordinator changes, notify TitleVI@WSDOT.wa.gov within 30 days.

To comply with Title VI requirements, each annual report submission must include signed Standard Assurances (USDOT1050.2A).

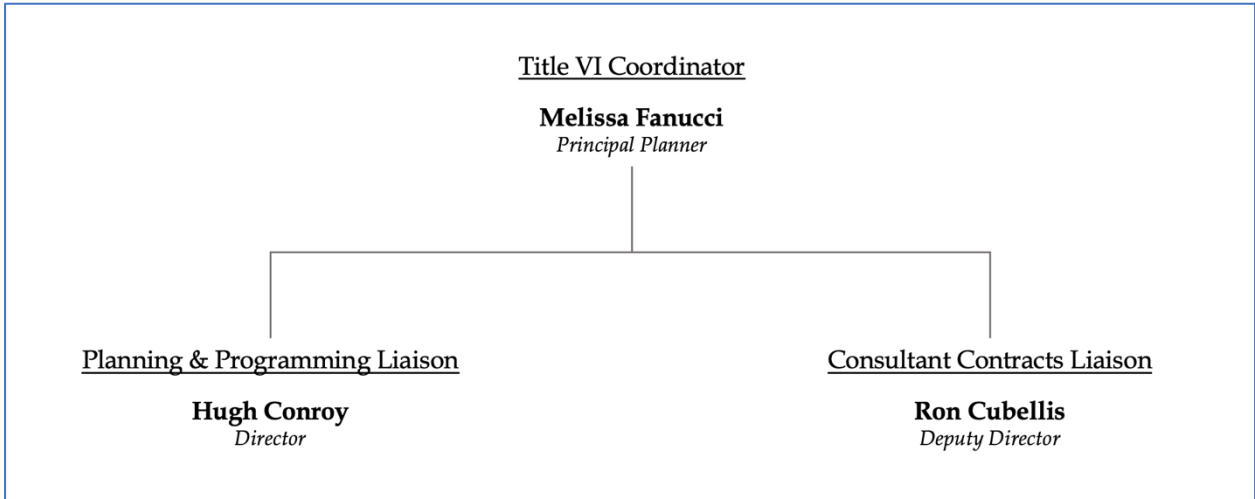
Accomplishments

1. Have there been any changes to the approved Title VI Plan that have not been reported to OEO? If Yes, please submit an update to the Title VI Plan with a new signature.

[A new 2024 Title VI Plan has been written and is out for public comment. Feedback from WSDOT is being incorporated and will be part of the final version that is pending WCOG Council Board adoption in January 2024.](#)

2. Organization, Staffing, Structure – Describe the Title VI Program reporting structure including the Title VI Coordinator, Administrative Head, and transportation-related staff. The list should include name, race, color, and national origin of each individual. Include the same details if your LPA has a volunteer or appointed board related to transportation decision making.

Title VI Coordinator: Melissa Fanucci, Principal Planner (White, US)
Planning and Programming Liaison: Hugh Conroy, Director (White, US)
Consultant Contracts Liaison: Ron Cubellis, Deputy Director (White, US)



3. Community Demographics – Using a map of the LPA’s boundaries, describe the demographics of the LPA’s service area (e.g., race, color, national origin, low-income). List, by individual languages, the percent of the population(s) that is limited English proficient.

The Washington Health Disparities Map highlights Census Tracts with a higher percentage of minority populations.

Figure 1: Minority Populations of Whatcom County by Census Tract

Source: Washington Tracking Network Health Disparities Map: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>

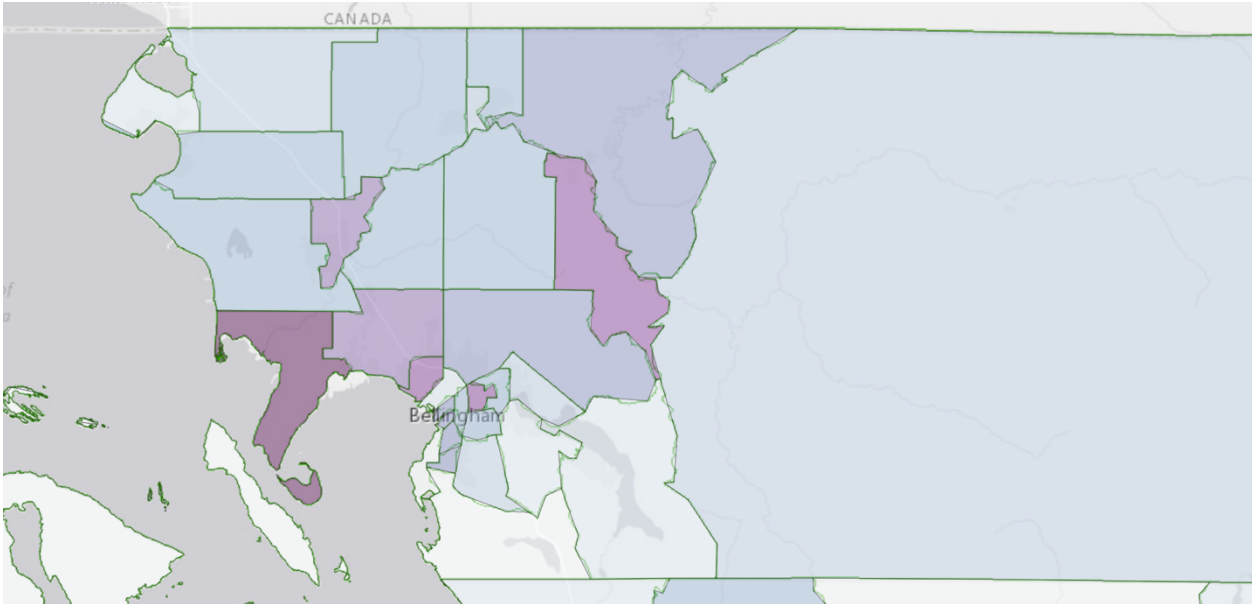
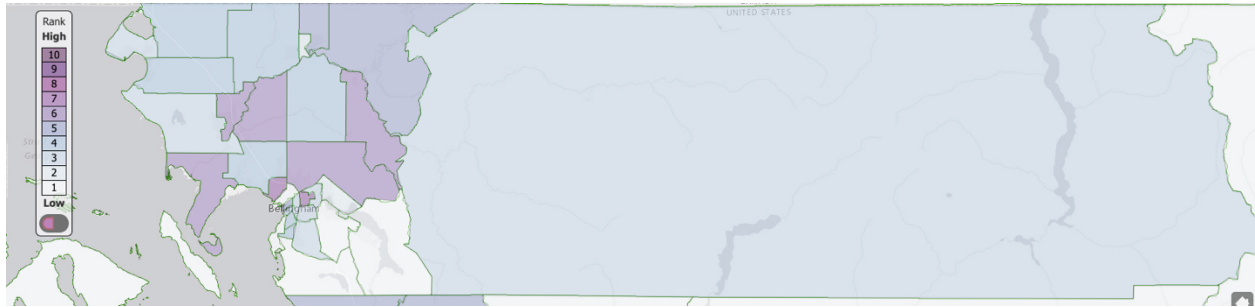


Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency in Whatcom County by Census Tract

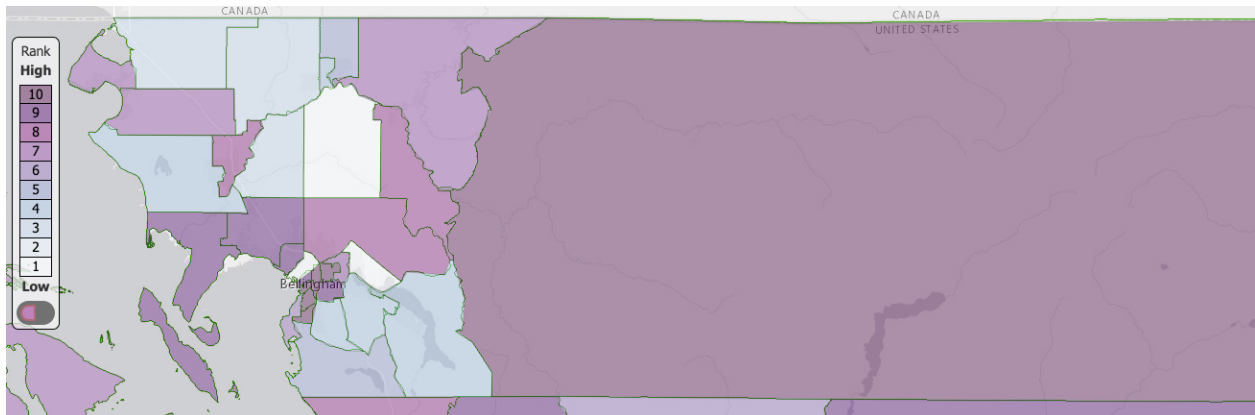
Source: Washington Tracking Network Health Disparities Map: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>



12% of Whatcom County households speak a language in addition to/other than English at home, with the second most used language being Spanish¹.

Figure 3: Population Living in Poverty in Whatcom County by Census Tract

Source: Washington Tracking Network Health Disparities Map: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>



4. Complaints – Provide a copy of the LPA’s Title VI complaint log, including new Title VI complaints received during this reporting period and any still pending. Include the basis of the complaint (race, color, national origin) and describe the disposition (status/outcome).

No Title VI complaints were received during the reporting period.

¹ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020, U.S. Census Bureau:
<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US53073-whatcom-county-wa/>

5. Planning – Describe the transportation planning activities performed this reporting period. Describe the actions taken to promote Title VI compliance regarding transportation planning, including monitoring and review processes, community involvement, their outcome or status. Include examples of community outreach.

Planning Activities During Reporting Period

Transportation planning and projects

- Eight North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) meetings, including a three 1–3-hour panel series webinars focused on specific topics related to regional travel without a car.
- Completion and adoption of *Way to Go, Whatcom*, the Whatcom Region’s regional and metropolitan transportation plan.
- Coordinated partnership between WCOG, WSDOT and City of Bellingham to pilot safety analytics that examined close-call crashes and traveler conflicts at selected locations within the Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Study subarea.
- Completion of WSDOT Data Request for 2023 Freight and Goods Transportation System update, which included contracting the collection of regional traffic counts.
- Data collection and analysis
- Updated WCOG’s public-facing GIS webapps with better integrated navigation, tools, and layer finding.
- Coordinated with Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee on drafting for transportation goals and strategies.
- Human Services Transportation Plan
- Work as begun on an update to WCOG’s Title VI Plan

TIP

- 2022 Annual cycle completed that provided final report project amendments and modifications, and federal and public requirements for access and participation. Highlights include:
 - 12 TIP amendments
 - 8 administrative modifications
 - 2023 TIP drafted, approved, and submitted for inclusion into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
 - Report includes performance measures that link prioritized regional projects to regional goals and to the federal performance measures.
 - Provided annual WCOG 2022 Obligations Listing for the Whatcom region.
 - \$16,784,572 million total obligations
 - \$266,719 million total de-obligations
 - Monitored federal funding obligations and continued coordination with project managers.
 - Recommended contingency projects.
 - Final 2022 obligations delivery was \$120,000 above target.
 - Received \$2,101,900 additional OA funding opportunity.
 - Received \$2,099 share of sanction funds from other regions and counties.

Model

- Adjusted 2045 model year development scenario to include proposed Pepin Parkway Subarea buildout.
- Assessed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for current and forecast year scenarios and in review of previous forecasts to illustrate impact of land use.
- Updated to TransCAD 9.0
- Drafted and posted model documentation: *Model Forecast Development Process and Projects List for Way to Go, Whatcom*

Whatcom Smart Trips

WCOG's Whatcom Smart Trips (WST) Program continued to build its engagement of area residents and businesses and expand its delivery of measurable positive impacts on the regional transportation system. The benefits include:

- 990 community members began participating in Smart Trips diaries, adding to the total of 23,350 since the program began in 2006.
- Participants have logged a total of 77,675,410 miles since the start of the program.
- 31,985 tons of greenhouse gas emissions have been prevented.
- Over \$13.3 million dollars have been added to the local economy through fuel savings.

A 2019-2023 mobility management grant which allows Whatcom Smart Trips staff in partnership with WTA to teach seniors and youth in Whatcom County how to ride fixed route transit was permitted to be used for bicycle education. A new offering of smaller covid-safe bike classes was developed. Staff worked with a total of 480 people in one on one or small groups.

After two years of lost access to regional schools to conduct 7th grade bus education, WST was able to return to the classrooms in spring of 2022 with an updated program for middle school students across the county.

International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program

- 1 in-person and 5 virtual meetings in 2022; 4 in-person and 4 virtual meetings in 2023.
- Completed the 2022 IMTC Cascade Gateway Commercial Vehicle Operations Study in coordination with Western Washington University's Border Policy Research Institute and funded through a collaboration of border stakeholder agencies including B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BCMOTI), Transport Canada, and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration. Efforts were fully supported by U.S. Customs & Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).
- Collected trade and travel data for sharing, analysis, and collaborative efforts with partner agencies to address regional cross-border transportation challenges.
- Calibrated the Cascade Gateway Border Data Warehouse archive with real-time data once border volumes increased.
- Received federal funding through the SMART Program to develop a replacement cross-border wait time system with partner agencies BCMOTI and WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

- Established a binational Pacific Highway Commercial Traffic Management Subgroup to address safety and traffic flow concerns for commercial vehicles using the truck staging area southbound at the Pacific Highway Port-of-Entry.
- Followed current border-related issues from participating agencies and other interests. Topics included anti-idling zones approaching U.S. and Canadian ports-of-entry; U.S. Maritime Administration's 2021 Marine Highway designation for the Coastal Connector Project; and infrastructure development plans and facility upgrades from both U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and CBSA at multiple Cascade Gateway border crossings.

Title VI Activities During Reporting Period

- WCOG Title VI Demographics Profile developed.
- Select Whatcom Smart Trips publications translated into Spanish.

6. Right-of-way actions – Describe activities during this reporting period associated with the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property (related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use). Include demographic information of affected populations. For example, the race, color, national origin of affected property/business owners(s)/tenant(s).

WCOG is not involved in the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use.

7. Identify right-of-way appraisers and acquisition staff (used during this reporting period) by race, color, national origin.

WCOG is not involved in the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use.

8. Studies and Plans – Were any transportation studies (including environmental reviews) conducted or transportation plans completed during this reporting period? Identify the data source(s) and provide data summary (Title VI/Environmental Justice Analysis) relative to ethnicity, race, languages spoken, neighborhoods, income levels, physical environments, and/or travel habits. Explain how data was used in these studies/reviews/plans.

Goal No. 6. Of Whatcom region's regional/metropolitan plan for 2045 – known as *Way to Go, Whatcom* – is a focus on "Access, equity, and economic opportunity." This goal states that "The region's transportation system should work for all people; should acknowledge and reduce barriers related to age (seniors and youth), income, and physical ability; and should connect people to resources, services, and opportunities critical to economic success (especially education and employment)."

To advance this recently expanded regional transportation goal, WCOG employed the following strategies:

- Development of an updated Public Participation Plan with new strategies and specific goals to better reach members who represent the actual ethnic, income, age, and linguistic composition of our region.
- Coordination with transportation service providers (WTA, non-profits, private sector) as part of updating and implementing the [Human Services Transportation Plan](#).
- Evaluate project selection criteria to recognize the equity-based interest in investing in historically marginalized communities and locations (e.g., underserved by infrastructure, disproportionately impacted by transportation emissions).
- Evaluate project selection criteria to emphasize investments in connecting high-need communities with transportation — especially to employment, education, and healthcare.

Regarding environmental justice, specific and overlapping strategies in the Plan include:

- Inclusion of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s environmental justice screening and mapping tool (EJSCREEN) on WCOG’s GIS portal.
- Consideration of additional mapping resources developed to help address historical inequities. These include:
 - WA Dept. of Health, Health Disparities Map
 - U.S. Census Bureau Data Equity Tools (e.g., Census Poverty Status Viewer, My Community Explorer, Income and Poverty Interactive Data Tool, etc.)
 - FHWA Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects (STEAP)
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Location Affordability Indicator Tool
 - USDOT Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts Tool
 - White House Council on Environmental Quality: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

9. Project Location and Design – Provide a list of construction projects that began during this reporting period. Using a map of the LPAs service area, identify project locations, and a brief description of the projects’ benefits/burdens to affected populations. If possible, provide a map that overlays projects with the racial composition of affected neighborhoods.

WCOG is not involved in project construction.

10. Other Public Meetings – List other public meetings held during this reporting period. Identify efforts used to encourage citizen participation at those meetings. Detail dates, times, locations, attendance, and provide examples of outreach materials.

All the following public meetings were held virtually and in-person. Meetings were advertised in the newspaper of record, The Bellingham Herald, as well as Cascadia Daily when a public notice/hearing is needed. Information is also available on WCOG’s website. Additional materials and translation services were made available upon request. No members of the public attended either online or in person.

- 10/12/22 WCOG Transportation Policy Board Meeting
- 1/18/23 WCOG Transportation Policy Board Meeting
- 3/8/23 WCOG Transportation Policy Board Meeting

Identify members of the LPA’s transportation planning and/or advisory groups by race, color, and national origin

While WCOG has a goal to maintain an inclusive and diverse board, partner organizations determine board membership and the membership of its program committees apart from the Community Transportation Advisory Group. WCOG’s boards and committees:

1. WCOG Council Board – members determined by jurisdictions.
2. WCOG Transportation Policy Board - members determined by jurisdictions/agencies.
3. Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) - members determined by jurisdictions/agencies.
4. International Mobility & Trade Corridor Program (IMTC) Steering Committee - members determined by jurisdictions/agencies.
5. North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) Steering Committee - members determined by jurisdictions/agencies.
6. Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTGAG) – membership open to anyone age 16 or older who lives, works, or owns a business in Whatcom County. A CTAG membership application is required to participate fully. CTAG has an open application process thus the race of members may vary from meeting to meeting.

Community Transportation Advisory Group Minority Representation

Race	# People	% in CTAG	% in Whatcom
White	34	74%	85%
Native American	1	2%	3%
African American	1	2%	1%
Asian	1	2%	4%
Hispanic	0	0%	9%
Other	4	8%	3%

Specify methods used to collect demographic information from the transportation-related public meetings. (Self-identification surveys, notes by staff, etc.) Include summaries of Public Involvement Forms collected at each meeting, listing the demographics of those who attended by meeting.

Plans for developing a survey for outreach events in 2024-2025 include adding a section for voluntary disclosure of color, race, or national origin.

List any language assistance services requested. For which languages? Who provided the service? In addition, list vital documents translated during the reporting period and identify the languages.

No language assistance was requested during the reporting period.

11. Transportation-related Construction and Consultant Contracts (if applicable) – Briefly describe the process used to advertise and award construction contracts during this reporting period. Include the process for negotiated contracts (e.g., consultants).

WCOG uses the process described in WSDOT’s *Local Agency Guidelines*, Chapter 31 (“Using Consultants”) when issuing RFPs and soliciting consultants. Refer to this [link](#) for further details.

- Describe the actions taken to promote construction contractor/consultant compliance with Title VI by construction contractors/consultants, including monitoring and review processes, and their outcomes/status (e.g. what Title VI language was included in contracts and agreements; were contractors and consultants reviewed to ensure compliance; what Title VI responsibilities are explained to contractors and consultants?)

Consultants retained by WCOG – whether contracted using federal or state funding – are required to comply with all pertinent provisions of Title VI and WCOG’s *Title VI Plan*. A compliance report will be conducted at the end of each State Fiscal Year.

- List construction, right-of-way, and consultant contracts with your LPA/MPO/entity for this report period with dollar value of each. Identify funding sources (federal, state, local, other), and how many were awarded to certified disadvantaged contractors (as a prime contractor/consultant).

Consulting Firm	Funding Source	DBE?	SFY2023 Total
IBI Group	Federal	No	\$9,912
McBride Public Affairs	Local	No	\$45,936
McBride Public Affairs	Local	No	\$48,840
Total			\$104,688

- Education & Training – Describe actions taken to promote Title VI compliance through education and trainings, including monitoring and review processes, and their outcomes/status.

List Title VI training/webinars your Title VI Coordinator attended this reporting period. Include dates and entity that conducted the training.

When was Title VI internal training provided to staff? Who conducted the training? What was the subject of the training? Provide the job titles and race/color/national origin of attendees.

List other civil rights training conducted locally. Provide dates and a list of participants by job title and Title VI role, if applicable.

No Title VI training was received by the Title VI Coordinator or other members of the staff during the reporting period.

Title VI Goals for Upcoming Year

What area(s) of Title VI does your agency plan to focus on in the upcoming year? Describe by particular program area what your agency hopes to accomplish. Include any significant problem areas to focus on and plans to address those.

- An updated Title VI Plan has been drafted and will be adopted by the WCOG Council Board after approval from WSDOT and the incorporation of public comments and feedback.

- An updated Public Participation has been drafted and will be adopted by the WCOG Council Board after approval from WSDOT and the incorporation of public comments and feedback.
- A new public engagement strategy will be the focus of 2024 with outreach events in the community, specific public meetings, and workshops on the Safe Streets For All Safety Action Plan, and the development of Outreach Partnerships with regional community-based organizations to better share information with minority and disadvantaged communities.