

# 2015 Farmhouse Gang Work Plan

North Sound Connecting Communities Project  
(Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Whidbey, and Snohomish Counties)

**DRAFT – For discussion only**

*Revision date: 10/16/14*

Farmhouse Gang Goals:

1. Improving connections and sustaining and expanding services.
2. Providing public information about transportation services in the region to enhance awareness of the regional transportation network.
3. Being innovative in the pursuit of funding from a variety of sources.
4. Collecting travel and system data to identify areas of possible improvement.
5. Enhancing mobility through sustainable innovative transportation solutions.

## **Task 1: County Connector next steps**

*Status: Partially complete*

**Related Farmhouse goals:** 1,5

**Description:** In 2014 WCOG developed a briefing on the County Connector using input from WTA, Skagit, Island, and Community Transit agencies. The objective is to support legislative consideration and inform WA Transportation Plan transit policy.

**2015 Next steps:** distribute briefing to legislature, WA State transit representatives, other parties; advocate for ongoing continuation of services.

## **Task 2: Connecting regional trails**

*Status: Started*

**Related Farmhouse Goals:** 1,2,4,5

**Description:** The objective of this task is to assess what resources and mapping tools are available to identify gaps in the trail network; set goals for strategic improvements; assess bicycle facilities; hold a public meeting on trails to invite discussion; and look at ways to create an online regional trail map. In 2014 WCOG began this process of building the inventory – looking at available bike and trail maps in Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish (none known for San Juan and Island), and efforts are underway to find out what new trails are being planned that extend to county borders.

**2015 Next Steps:** Complete compilation of inventory, hold public meeting to strategic improvement goals, investigate cost for online mapping tool.

## **Task 3: Amtrak Cascades mid-day service advocacy**

*Status: Ongoing*

**Related Farmhouse Goals:** 1,2

**Description:** Farmhouse Gang participating agencies continue to work in an advocacy role to coordinate and inform regional stakeholders on current rail studies, initiatives, and progress toward more Amtrak scheduled runs.

**2015 Next Steps:** Document the Farmhouse Gang's regional interest in additional Amtrak Cascades service; plan for a dialog on the issue at the 2015 Farmhouse Gang General Assembly meeting.

## **Task 4: Improve intermodal connectivity with ferries, trains, and bikes**

*Status: Not started*

**Related Farmhouse Goals:** 1,4, 5

**Description:** Develop a problem statement that lists challenges in going from ferry in Mukilteo to bus, ferry in Anacortes to bus, and train to bus at Skagit Station. Also consider bike connections.

**2015 Next Steps:** Complete work as defined here, present results at May General Assembly meeting.