



# Study Background and Survey

**Washington County is evaluating long-term transportation investments and strategies. The Study will identify tradeoffs between alternative transportation investments and inform future choices and decisions. Learn more about the study and provide your input.**

## Study Overview

Over the past few decades, Washington County has developed into a vibrant urban metropolitan area while retaining thriving rural communities. As we develop and grow, travel patterns and transportation needs are also changing.

Washington County is embarking on a study to evaluate long-term transportation investments and strategies needed to help sustain our economic health and quality of life in the coming decades. Over the next 18 months this forward-thinking study will identify the tradeoffs between alternative long-term transportation investments examining:

- the county's changing demographics;
- land use and economic conditions;
- transportation trends and new technologies; and
- financial, environmental, health, and equity issues that need to be considered.

The Study will help inform future choices and decisions that work for people and businesses.

## Community Values

Community values tell us what's important to people who live and work in Washington County. This study will incorporate community values into a set of criteria that will be used to guide the process and evaluate tradeoffs between alternatives.

The study team reviewed many planning and visioning documents adopted by cities in the County and Washington County, as well as regional and state plans and documents. These provide a starting place to determine Washington County community values and goals. A review of these studies and documents paints a picture of Washington County's core community values for land use and transportation.

This packet includes information about the study, and survey questions for you to answer. Please complete the survey and provide to a member of the study team, or mail to:

Sylvia Ciborowski  
1110 SE Alder, Suite 301  
Portland, OR 97213

You can also find the same information and survey questions online:

[WCTransportationFutures.org](http://WCTransportationFutures.org)

## Study Process and Public Engagement

The Study will advance through a five-step process. We are currently in the first step: refining a set of community values and learning about transportation problems and opportunities facing the County. The public will stay informed as the study continues and will be asked to provide ideas for future transportation investment options, and will be invited to participate in an online open house to provide input on the study's results and conclusions.

## What we know

Over the past months, the project team has reviewed existing community and transportation plans and studies to understand how we've changed, where we're headed in the future, and identified some of the transportation challenges and opportunities facing the County.

The Study team has reviewed key planning influences—from the 1970's to current times—that reflect the county's planning history and provide perspectives that can inform future transportation planning.

### Here are the key findings:

#### Community and Land Use

- The County **exceeded growth projections** in the 1980's and 1990's. The County is expected to **grow dramatically** in the future, adding 200,000 more residents and 122,000 additional jobs by 2035. This is the equivalent of adding another City of Beaverton and City of Hillsboro.
- The County is becoming more **culturally diverse**, and ethnic diversity is expected to increase.
- The **character of the county has transitioned**—from rural to suburban to, in many places, urban—as a direct result of regional and local land use and transportation decisions.
- Development over the past few decades has focused on **regional and town centers and corridors** to create more walkable communities, and greater emphasis on light rail station area planning, a mix of uses, and a variety of housing types.
- The designation of **urban and rural reserves** provides more certainty for long-term land use planning than we've ever had.

#### Travel and Transportation

- Employment growth in Hillsboro and Tualatin has meant **more commuter traffic** from Portland into Washington County employment areas and greater peak-hour north-south travel flow. **Increased congestion** has added to delay for trucks and goods movement, resulting in congestion and travel delays that cost money and force changes in business operations and location decisions.
- Recent planning efforts have emphasized **expanding transportation choice and reducing vehicle travel demand**, which has resulted in 15 percent fewer miles driven per person and less time spent commuting than the national average.
- **Coordinated transportation planning and financing** between the County and cities has been a successful approach. For instance, the **Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP)** has greatly enhanced the local transportation system by targeting improvements to address safety and capacity deficiencies and enhance multi-modal opportunities.

## Next Steps

### Next Steps in the Study Process

- The study team will refine the set of community values based on public input. Going forward, the Values Statement will be used to evaluate land use scenarios and transportation options. The team will develop conceptual transportation strategies and invite the public to provide their input later this year.

**Stay Involved:** Sign up for our mailing list and provide comments anytime on the project website:

[www.WCTransportationFutures.org](http://www.WCTransportationFutures.org)

# Community Values Worksheet



Washington County residents, businesses and visitors value a community that:

Values	How important is this value? (1 =less important, 5=most important)	Comments
<b>CONNECTIVITY:</b> Provides easy access to destinations essential for daily needs, goods, services and activities.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>EFFICIENCY:</b> Promotes efficient and reliable movement of people, goods, and services.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:</b> Encourages viable transportation options, including private automobiles, transit, bicycling, and walking.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>GEOGRAPHIC EQUITY:</b> Promotes community design that reflects the unique needs and desires of urban, rural, and suburban communities, including compact, multi-modal, and vibrant communities in urban areas.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>SOCIAL EQUITY:</b> Ensures equitable benefits from transportation investments wherein groups and neighborhoods have a fair share and there is no discernible disproportionate impact on any one group.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:</b> Protects air, climate, water, open space and other natural resources from the impacts of growth and transportation.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>STRATEGIC INVESTMENT:</b> Uses public funds wisely. Protect investments by maintaining the current transportation system and using technology to improve efficiency.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>ECONOMIC VITALITY:</b> Supports job growth and strong urban and rural economies.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>SAFETY:</b> Ensures that all travelers get to their destinations safely.	1 2 3 4 5	
<b>HEALTH:</b> Encourages citizens to become more active and healthy by providing alternative transportation modes.	1 2 3 4 5	

## Community Values Questions

1) Please provide any other comments on community values:

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2) Are there any additional values that should be considered?

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## “What We Know” Questions

3) As you think about how our transportation needs have changed over the past few decades, what are your ideas for meeting future transportation needs several decades from now?

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## Final Questions

1) Do you have any other comments to share with the project team?

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2) How did you hear about this project and survey?

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## Demographic Questions (Optional)

*This study is requesting demographic information to evaluate the effectiveness of public outreach activities. The identity of individuals is kept confidential. The results are reported as totals only, and used solely to help improve future community engagement. Providing this information is voluntary and optional.*

3) What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Gender (Check one.)  Male  Female  Prefer not to specify

5) Languages spoken at home (Check all that apply.)

English  Spanish

6) Zip code of primary residence: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Do you work in Washington County? (Check one.)  Yes  No

8) Ethnicity? (Check all that apply.)

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American (not of Hispanic origin) | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian (not of Hispanic origin)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown/Decline                   |

## Join Our Mailing List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_