



Department of
Land Use & Transportation

Washington County Transportation Study *Overview*

defining 20 - 50 year transportation investment choices

December 23, 2014



Introduction

Washington County has developed into a vibrant urban metropolitan area that also retains a thriving rural community and economy. A safe and functional transportation system is critical to our economy and quality of life. At the close of its 2013 session, the Oregon Legislature provided funding for the **Washington County Transportation Study** to evaluate the long-term transportation strategies and investments needed to sustain the county's economic health and quality of life in the coming decades.

This study provides the opportunity to:

- think big and look far beyond the Transportation System Plan's 20-year horizon;
- study the county's evolving demographic and economic conditions and implications for travel needs;
- evaluate the tradeoffs from two transportation investment packages against a range of community values and two plausible future land use scenarios; and
- position Washington County for continued success in the future.

The study results will provide a better understanding of long-term transportation needs, tradeoffs between alternative transportation investments, and provide guidance for subsequent updates to regional, county, and local plans.

Engagement and Coordination

Washington County's **Department of Land Use & Transportation (LUT)** will lead this study under the direction of the **Board of County Commissioners (Board)**. The Board will be asked to appoint a **Study Advisory Committee** and accept the conclusions of the study.

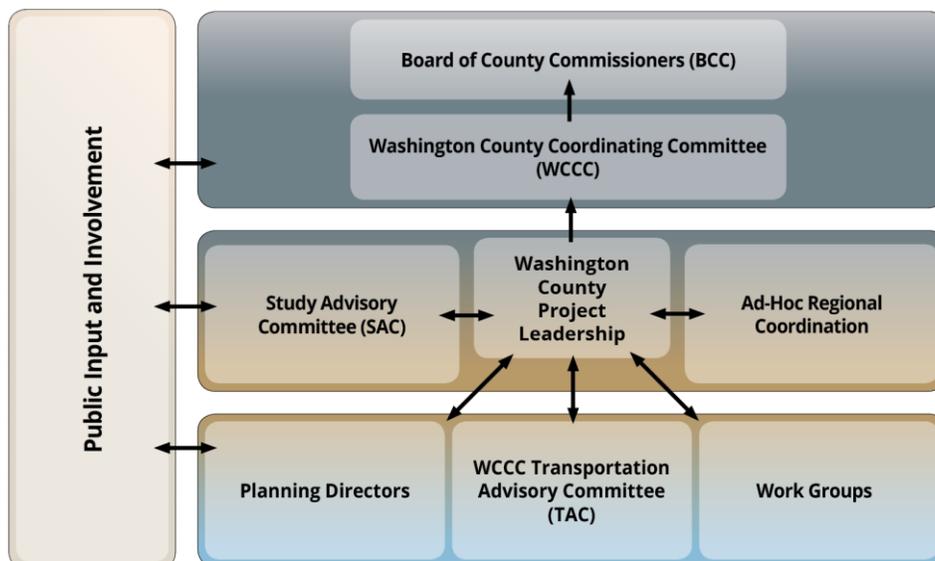
The **Washington County Coordinating Committee (WCCC)**, made up of elected officials from the county and all cities in Washington County plus representatives from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Port of Portland, TriMet and Metro, will review the study at milestones and recommend future steps to the Board. **Staff from cities and agencies** (Planning Directors and WCCC Transportation Advisory Committee) will provide input to the study and will review work products.

A **Study Advisory Committee** comprised of community members with a depth of knowledge and interests in diverse areas including business, major urban industry, agricultural and forestry, freight and goods movement, transit and active transportation, equity and health, development industry, economic development, energy, community livability, and natural environment will advise the County at key milestones and serve as a forum to explore how the study's approach, transportation investment packages and analysis meet needs and reflect community values. Members of the Study Advisory Committee will be selected through an open nomination process.

A number of **Ad-Hoc Groups** will be convened to advise on specific technical, social, regional or environmental issues. For example, one such group will be focused on how the transportation investment alternatives may affect health and equity issues in the county.

A **public engagement process** will be established to ensure that diverse viewpoints are used to help verify community values; provide input into opportunities and challenges facing the county; inform and review transportation investment packages; and discuss the tradeoffs between investment packages. Community input will be solicited throughout the study with on-line opportunities, facilitated community discussions, opinion polls, and other techniques to reach out and engage stakeholders. Special efforts will be made to reach out to communities of color, low income, disabled and other underrepresented groups.

Study Committee Structure:



Study Process and Timeline

Building on the county's Transportation System Plan (TSP) work, the long-term **Washington County Transportation Study** will look further out into the future—allowing us to think longer-term about our future land use and transportation challenges and opportunities.

The study efforts will take place over approximately 16 months, starting in January, 2015 and ending in the spring of 2016. As described below and illustrated on the following page the study will advance through a five phase process:

Phase 1: Taking Stock

This phase will involve capturing lessons learned from the past 25 years of transportation policy and investment decisions, as well as review where we're going over the next 25 years. In this task we will also consolidate, confirm and attempt to identify any potential gaps in understanding of the community values that will guide the study.

Phase 2: Land Use Scenarios

Two future land use scenarios that reflect varying rates, types, and distribution of growth within the county as well as assumption about influencing factors like advances in technology will be developed. The scenarios are not forecasts, but are platforms that will allow testing of the efficacy and resiliency of potential transportation investment strategies. The scenarios will build from adopted local land use plans.

Phase 3: Transportation Investment Packages

Two alternative transportation investment "packages" reflective of community goals will be developed in order to provide comparative approaches to addressing future needs. It is anticipated that many diverse transportation investment concepts will come from the public and advisory committees, and will likely include assumptions about technological advancements, improvements to vehicular, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian capacity, as well as system demand management tools.

Phase 4: Evaluation

The transportation investment packages will be evaluated against criteria that will be developed working closely with the advisory groups and with input from the community at large.

Phase 5: Public Review and Conclusions

The results of the evaluations will become the basis for a broad community discussion. The results of the technical analyses will be presented in a way that highlights the benefits and impacts associated with alternative transportation investment packages. The public discussion of those tradeoffs will lead to a greater understanding of areas of agreement and those issues where divergent viewpoints predominate.



For More Information

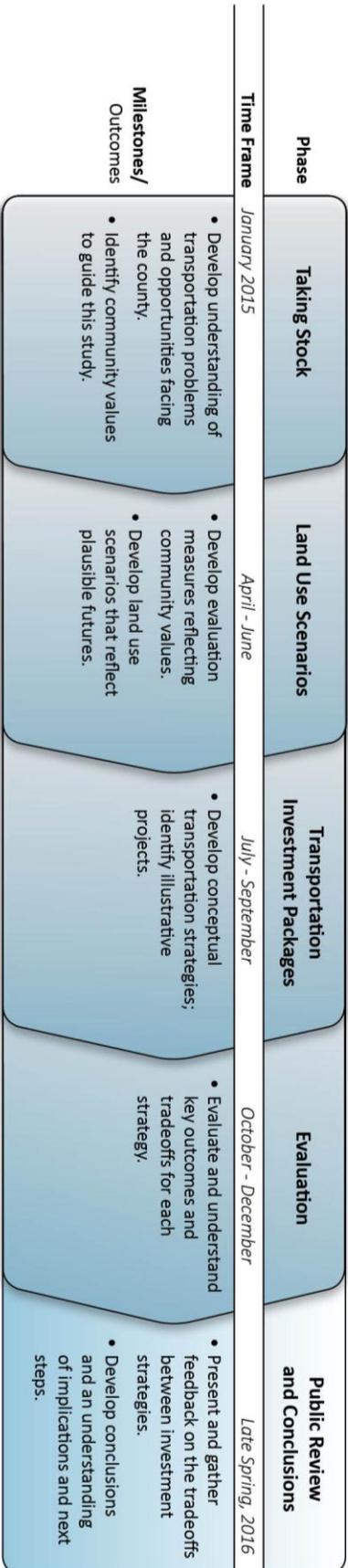
If you have questions or comments about the study or would like more information about applying for the study advisory committee, please visit www.co.washington.or.us/WCTS or contact the Department of Land Use & Transportation at 503-846-4530 and press zero.

Washington County Transportation Study

December 23, 2014

Washington County Transportation Study Process

December 23, 2014



Committees

★ = Input ◆ = Update ✓ = Action

Committee	Taking Stock	Land Use Scenarios	Transportation Investment Packages	Evaluation	Public Review and Conclusions
Study Advisory Committee (SAC)	★	★	★	★	★
Wa. Co. Coordinating Committee (WCCC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆
Board of County Commissioners (BCC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆
Intergency and Technical Coordination	→				
Public Role	Refine values; contribute input on factors influencing future land use conditions.		Review transportation strategies.		Discuss tradeoffs between investment strategies.