



Washington County Transportation Futures Study

Exploring options • Informing choices



Update - Spring 2016



The county is growing and our travel needs are changing. How do we ensure our transportation system will sustain our wonderful quality of life in the coming decades?

The Washington County Transportation Futures Study will identify transportation investment ideas and evaluate how well they might meet important community values for generations to come.

Questions or comments?

Contact the study team:

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WCTransportationFutures.org

How could the county grow over the next 50 years?

Over the next 50 years, population and employment will grow and the County will become more urban. Given the uncertainty of forecasting the long-term future, the study team worked with local and national experts to develop two future scenarios for how we might grow. These scenarios will be used to test the resiliency of transportation investment ideas.

Scenario 1 is based on existing trends, while Scenario 2 assumes stronger growth in economic activity leading to a higher number of residents and greater employment in the County.

As envisioned in local community plans, much of the future growth will focus on downtowns and centers. Urban centers will become more vibrant and employment and industrial areas will grow. The agricultural character and economy in rural areas is anticipated to remain strong.

Why are we doing this study?

Historically the County has experienced a strong economy, community growth and a wonderful quality of life. This is in part due to significant investments in our transportation system.

The Washington County Transportation Futures Study will evaluate long-term transportation strategies and investments needed to sustain the county's economic health and quality of life in the coming decades.

The evaluation will highlight tradeoffs and help County residents, businesses and elected officials find areas of agreement and set transportation priorities for further evaluation and refinement.

Two plausible futures for how we might grow in the next 40-50 years:



Envisioning the future of Washington County

Local and national trends help paint the picture of how our County could change in the next 40 to 50 years:

- Cities will become **more urban and dense**, especially in communities expected to have more people and jobs—like Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tualatin, and Wilsonville.
- Families are estimated to have fewer children and live in **smaller homes** and apartments. Our **older population** will increase as the large millennial generation retires.
- The County will continue to be **more diverse**, and we'll see continued **growth in low and high income earners** as middle income jobs become scarcer.
- More people and jobs will mean an **increase in travel demand**.
- The **way we travel** will change. New technologies will make ridesharing easier, and car ownership per household is expected to decline. More people will telecommute and buy goods online—which means fewer work and shopping related trips.
- **Emerging travel technology** will become the norm in 50 years. Autonomous and connected “**self-driving cars**” will improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of the transportation system.

Transportation investment ideas to study

A number of ideas have emerged from the study process. Here are just some of the investments to study:

- Tools and policies that **reduce the number of vehicle trips**.
- **New technologies** that will make travel more efficient, such as connected and self-driving cars, and smart traffic signals.
- **Improved biking and walking** facilities, such as expanded on-street protected sidewalks and bike lanes, bicycle express routes, and better amenities.
- **Increased transit service**, including upgraded and new high capacity and express transit, a grid bus network, transit priority on key roads, and “last mile” solutions.
- Investments to **improve movement of goods by truck**, such as improving roads to better accommodate trucks and providing dedicated truck lanes on some throughways.
- Investments **on major roads**, including adding capacity to some roads, more crossings over major highways, and building some new roads connections.
- Investments that **improve travel on throughways**, including Hwy 26, Hwy 217 and I-5, and constructing a new North-South route.



It pays to be proactive.

Thinking ahead has helped us make better decisions—and will continue to help us in the years ahead.

Next Steps

In mid-2016 the study will evaluate how well the transportation investments support values that are important to the community. In late 2016, the public will have the opportunity to engage in a conversation about the study findings and trade-offs between investment options.

