

HORIZON 2040

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**HORIZON
2040**
Spokane Metropolitan
Transportation Plan

SRTC
SPOKANE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

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SRTC'S MISSION

To coordinate transportation planning in the Spokane Region by providing leadership, expertise, and a forum for collaboration.

HORIZON 2040 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Spokane metropolitan planning area, which covers all of Spokane County. Horizon 2040 was developed by the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC). It is a plan for an integrated, accessible and multi-modal transportation system to safely and efficiently move people and goods through the year 2040.

HORIZON 2040 establishes Guiding Principles and Policies for achieving the regional transportation vision. The Plan also reflects current demographics and recent economic realities while forecasting trends that influence travel behavior.

Horizon 2040 identifies a list of implementation strategies to overcome the transportation challenges our region will face over the next 22 years and to capitalize on regional opportunities. It includes short term and long range strategies of projects and programs important to the region.

HORIZON 2040 INCLUDES:

- Projected transportation demand of persons and goods based on county and municipal comprehensive plans;
- Existing and proposed transportation facilities;
- Strategies to operate and maintain local transportation facilities;

- Processes and strategies to manage congestion now and in the future;
- Assessments of capital investments;
- Descriptions of existing and proposed transportation facilities;
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities;
- Transportation and transit Improvement activities; and
- A financial plan.

The planning process undertaken to develop Horizon 2040 was extensive. Stakeholder interviews were convened and SRTC's Guiding Principles were refined to streamline a regional vision. This was followed by the identification of future transportation challenges and opportunities. SRTC staff then conducted scenario planning to identify strategic planning considerations that will assist in implementing this Plan. Solutions to achieve the vision of a well-maintained multi-modal transportation system consist of regional networks, transportation programs, and transportation projects which were developed with the assistance of performance data. A financial plan is also included to evaluate financial constraint. Finally, specific implementation strategies were developed in collaboration with member jurisdictions and the public. An evaluation framework is in place to assist in measuring the effectiveness of the plan.

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REGIONAL VISION

In order for SRTC to achieve its vision and mission, the following Guiding Principles and Policies were developed by the SRTC Board as the first step in creating a policy framework for Horizon 2040.

Economic Vitality

- Focus on people, freight and goods movement to improve regional, national and global competitiveness
- Enhance accessibility and connections to economic activity centers
- Prioritize multi-modal investments

Cooperation and Leadership

- Provide a regional forum to develop priorities
- Identify funding strategies
- Coordinate with stakeholders

Stewardship

- Protect the environment
- Follow federal, state and local legislation and policies
- Measure performance
- Share the use of infrastructure

System Operations, Maintenance and Preservation

- Preserve and prolong the life of infrastructure
- Use fiscal resources prudently
- Provide adequate funding

- Improve efficiency of system operations

Safety and Security

- Draw on best-practice design
- Utilize education and outreach
- Make use of operational strategies
- Protect critical infrastructure from external threats
- Improve maintenance of the transportation system

Quality of Life

- Offer safe and convenient forms of active transportation that support public health objectives
- Consider the needs of all transportation users regardless of ability
- Increase public transit access and improve service
- Improve transportation system connections
- Design to support social, cultural and commercial activities

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CHALLENGES & FUTURE NEEDS

SRTC has evaluated trends in population and employment growth as well as other factors that will influence the regional transportation system in the future.

HORIZON 2040 takes a close look at the Spokane region and the existing conditions of our transportation system. From this we know:

Our Community

- 23% of people employed in Spokane County live outside the county.
- More than 14% of the Spokane County population has a disability.
- 7.6% of Spokane County households have no vehicles available.
- The 2015 American Communities Survey says households are getting smaller and the population older.

Our Transportation System

- The region experiences regular but limited AM and PM period peak hour congestion.
- 57.1 % of our National Highway System lane miles are in *good* condition.
- Of the 302 bridges in Spokane County, 21 are in poor condition.
- Growth in air cargo is exceeding expectations.
- Trucking is the dominant mode of freight transport in the Spokane area.
- BNSF Railway and Union Pacific operate approximately 60 trains per day through the Spokane metropolitan area between 4,000 and 6,000 feet long.
- Bicycling and walking represents about 11% of total trips in Spokane County.
- More than *10 million* rides are provided on the STA bus system annually.
- Jurisdictions report over \$210 million in maintenance backlogs.

CHALLENGES

Data analysis and public input gathered as part of the Horizon 2040 development process reveal the following top issues as the foremost challenges when it comes to the region's transportation system:

Additional funding resources needed for operations, maintenance and preservation. The first step to address the region's aging infrastructure is to understand the scale of costs, especially the backlog of deferred maintenance and other unfunded needs. SRTC members must consider how maintenance of current and new facilities will be paid for when approving new construction. Conversely, new roads and bridges may be needed, requiring a fine balance to fund our needs with limited resources.

Addressing the region's deficient bridges. Data shows 21 of the area's bridges are considered in poor condition and need repair or replacement.

Increasing access to public transportation services. Improving the quantity and quality of public transportation will support increased mobility to growing activity centers and enhance the region's quality of life. The needs of populations, especially those with physical disabilities, projected to live outside the reach of conventional transit service should be addressed to increase their access to medical, social and recreational services and activities.

Implementing solutions to reduce serious injuries and fatalities. Distracted driving is becoming a more prevalent cause of accidents and efforts are ramping up to discourage this behavior. But overall,

roadway design and efforts such as education are needed to increase area safety.

Ensuring efficient freight movement while expanding freight mobility's role in economic development. The regional transportation system contributes significantly to the economic vitality and commerce of the region. With almost 81,000 freight focused jobs in the region, ensuring connectivity between employment activity centers and supporting effective freight corridors is crucial.

Implementing solutions to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, accessibility and safety. Many people are shifting from driving alone to walking or bicycling. Improvements targeting bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and accessibility are needed. Projects and educational programs that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety are equally essential.

Support access and mobility to the region's airports and ensure the viability of Fairchild Air Force Base. Spokane International Airport (SIA) has a \$754 million dollar economic impact to the region. Recent improvements to SIA and Felts Field have increased the area's potential for growth and development in the aviation industry. Safe and efficient infrastructure to and from these airports is instrumental as the aviation and aerospace sectors continue to grow. Also supporting mobility to Fairchild Air Force Base is critical to maintain its viability.

Implementing transportation-related measures to sustain and enhance the region's quality of life. The region's population is projected to grow 21% by 2040. This growth and land use pressure will influence future travel behavior and operations of our transportation system. Decisions made now will impact conditions of the future and demand on the transportation system.

FUTURE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

A simulation of possible future transportation conditions was used to evaluate potential system needs and deficiencies that result from growth in our region. When looking at future traffic conditions with the current transportation system (a "No-Build" scenario), the impacts to mobility could be extensive by the year 2040. Based on future conditions and needs, we know:

- Changes in demographics and land use will increase pressure on regional transportation networks and likely increase use of alternative modes of transportation.
- Growth in public transportation use will be constrained without investments in additional transit capacity and service. A projected 16% increase in transit trips would represent a strain on the transit system and likely under-represents the full demand that could be expected in 2040 considering the 21% increase in population.
- Absent future improvements to the vehicular and public transit networks, the Spokane region will experience increased peak hour congestion in certain high volume corridors.

- Freight movement forecasts point to mobility and safety improvements such as grade separated crossings and freight climbing or passing lanes to capitalize on future economic opportunities.
- Advancements in technology are changing how transportation works and should be monitored so the region can get the maximum benefit.
- Public transportation service and other information, technology, design and operations programs show demonstrable benefits to the traveling public and freight shippers.

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

For Horizon 2040, SRTC conducted a scenario planning process to identify future risks and opportunities that can test the flexibility and resilience of the Horizon 2040 strategies. This type of planning is a structured way for the agency to look at how the future might unfold and how this might affect issues that confront us. The process elevated five considerations for strategic planning:

- Expand regional coordination to advance transportation impacts to service providers,
- Enhance asset management at the MPO level to improve resiliency in transportation infrastructure,

- Increase trends monitoring and data availability to anticipate changing conditions,
- Establish a regional technical assistance program to assist SRTC members in planning for the future, and
- Better integrated transportation, land use and economic development planning.

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SOLUTIONS

Horizon 2040 establishes a list of funding targets considered a best approach to meet upcoming regional needs. The programming targets put the majority of funding in the Operation and Maintenance program to improve the condition of our transportation network.

Horizon 2040 also includes a list of short and long range large scale projects linked to regional performance goals. Additionally, it establishes regional priority freight, transit, bicycle and vehicular networks to help determine the priority of regional-level solutions.

The Horizon 2040 Financial Plan forecasts what funding may be reasonably available during the next 22 years and demonstrates that the projects and programs in the plan can be implemented within this financial constraint. Nearly \$9.9 billion is forecasted in reasonably available revenues for the region, far short of the projected need, especially for maintenance, operations and preservation.

Category	Local/Regional	WSDOT	STA	Total
Revenue	\$3,634,300,000	\$2,773,100,000	\$3,517,900,000	\$9,925,300,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$724,800,000	\$470,000,000	\$2,848,000,000	\$4,042,800,000
Preservation	\$1,689,400,000	\$823,700,000		\$2,513,100,000
Programs	\$957,400,000	\$243,200,000	\$462,700,000	\$1,663,300,000
Regionally Significant Capital	\$262,700,000	\$1,236,200,000	\$207,200,000	\$1,706,100,000
Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Horizon 2040 includes implementation strategies that will lead to the maintenance and enhancement of a regional, integrated multimodal transportation system. These strategies facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods while addressing current and future transportation demand. The strategies are the outcome of analysis and coordination with member jurisdictions and the public that has been continuous throughout the development of Horizon 2040.

Strategy 1: Prioritize Transportation Preservation, Maintenance and Operations

Horizon 2040 emphasizes the operation, maintenance and preservation of the region’s existing transportation networks.

Strategy 2: Support Transportation Demand Management and Transportation System Management and Operations

Horizon 2040 places a priority on maximizing the utility of current transportation systems using cost-effective approaches such as Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO).

Strategy 3: Pursue cost-effective transportation investments

Horizon 2040 prioritizes the use of innovative techniques for the cost-effective engineering and construction of transportation projects using high quality, long lasting materials.

Strategy 4: Invest in Public Transit

Public transportation plays an important role in the economic vitality and quality of life of our region. This includes those living in urban areas as well as rural and surrounding communities include tribal reservations and trust lands.

Strategy 5: Improve Safety and Security

The transportation investments in Horizon 2040 support and enhance the safety and security of the regional networks and systems.

Strategy 6: Protect the natural environment

Protecting the natural environment including air, soil and water quality will be a requirement for regional funding for all transportation projects.

Strategy 7: Provide multimodal options

All people, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, should have safe, comfortable and convenient access to community destinations and public places– whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation.

Strategy 8: Promote Regional Leadership

Horizon 2040 has identified the need for SRTC to provide additional coordination and leadership to ensure cross-jurisdictional solutions.



EVALUATION

HORIZON 2040 is a performance-based plan. Measuring the success of achieving the goals of the Plan will be essential for demonstrating the worth and effectiveness of strategies to regional decision makers and the public.

Horizon 2040 sets a performance target for safety, specifically to reduce fatal and serious injuries. Also, the plan sets a separate bicycle and pedestrian serious and fatal collision targets, found on Page 3-10.

SPOKANE COUNTY SERIOUS INJURY & FATAL COLLISIONS

	<i>Current 5-year</i>	<i>Target 5-year</i>
<i>Serious Injuries</i>	133	114
<i>Fatalities</i>	30.4	26.1



Source: Washington State Department of Transportation

SRTC will establish additional performance targets in the upcoming year 2018 on pavement condition, bridge condition, congestion and air quality.

SRTC will report annually on the region's progress in meeting performance targets.