



Photo Credit: Spokane International Airport

HORIZON 2045 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SRTC'S Mission	13
Regional Vision	14
Challenges & Future Needs	14
Strategic Planning	16
Solutions	16
Evaluation	17



SRTC'S MISSION

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

Horizon 2045 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Spokane Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), which consists of Spokane County in its entirety. Horizon 2045 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 2045.

Horizon 2045 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 2045 identifies a list of implementation strategies to overcome the transportation challenges our region will face over the next 23 years, and to capitalize on regional opportunities. It contains short- and long-term strategies, projects, and programs important to the region.

Horizon 2045 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, as well as in the future
- Assessments of capital investments
- Descriptions of existing and proposed transportation facilities
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Transportation and transit Improvement activities
- A financial plan

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 2045.

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

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 2045** takes a close look at the Spokane region and the existing conditions of our transportation system. From this we know:

Our Community

- Approximately 22 percent of the region's employees live outside of the planning area.
- More than 14 percent of the region's population has a disability.
- 7.2 percent of the region's households have no vehicles available.
- Over recent decades the region's households have grown smaller, while the population continues to grow older.

Our Transportation System

- Over 57 percent of our National Highway System (NHS) lane miles are in good condition.
- Eight of the 304 bridges in the region, are in poor condition.
- Trucking is the dominant mode of freight transport in the region.
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) operate roughly 60 trains per day through the region. Each train is 4,000 to 6,000 feet long.
- Bicycling and walking represents about 10 percent of total trips in the region.
- Nearly 10 million rides are provided on the STA bus system annually.
- As of 2021, SRTC member agencies report over \$700 million in maintenance and preservation backlogs.¹

¹ The following agencies provided SRTC with 2021 maintenance and preservation backlogs: the City of Spokane, the City of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, and WSDOT.

CHALLENGES

Data analysis and public input gathered as part of the plan 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 eight of the region's 304 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 projected to live outside the reach of conventional transit service—especially those with physical disabilities—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 95,000 freight industry sector 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. Some 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 19 percent by 2045. This growth and land use pressure will influence future travel behavior and operations of our transportation system. Decisions made now will impact future conditions and demands on the transportation system.

FUTURE 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 "baseline" scenario), the impacts to mobility could be extensive by the year 2045. 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 17 percent increase in transit trips would represent a strain on the transit system and likely under-represents the full demand that could be expected in 2045 considering the 19 percent 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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of the plan development process SRTC has identified 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.

SOLUTIONS

Horizon 2045 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 operations and maintenance program, to improve the condition of our transportation network.

Horizon 2045 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.

Horizon 2045's financial plan forecasts what funding anticipated to be reasonably available during the next 23 years. It demonstrates that the projects and programs in the plan can be implemented within this financial constraint. In total, \$14.3 billion in reasonably available revenues is forecasted for the region as a whole. This is far short of the projected need—especially for maintenance, operations, and preservation.

Projected Transportation Revenues and Expenditures in the Spokane Region, 2022–2045

Point of Expenditure	Total Revenues	Expenditures				Balance
		Operations & Maintenance	Preservation	Programs	Regionally Significant Capital	
Local/Regional	\$ 5,726,300,000	\$ 676,400,000	\$ 3,647,600,000	\$ 1,169,400,000	\$ 232,900,000	\$ 0
WSDOT	\$ 4,766,600,000	\$ 1,033,800,000	\$ 2,248,500,000	\$ 291,700,000	\$ 1,192,600,000	\$ 0
STA	\$ 3,832,700,000	\$ 3,242,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 332,900,000	\$ 257,800,000	\$ 0
Total	\$ 14,325,600,000	\$ 4,952,200,000	\$ 5,896,100,000	\$ 1,794,000,000	\$ 1,683,300,000	\$ 0



Photo Credit: Spokane International Airport

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Horizon 2045 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, which has been continuous throughout the development of Horizon 2045.

STRATEGY 1: PRIORITIZE TRANSPORTATION PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Horizon 2045 emphasizes the operation, maintenance and preservation of the region's existing transportation networks.

STRATEGY 2: SUPPORT TDM & TSMO

Horizon 2045 places a priority on maximizing the utility of current transportation systems by 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 2045 prioritizes innovative techniques for cost-effective engineering and construction of transportation projects, by 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 applies to those living in urban areas, as well as the surrounding rural communities and tribal reservations and trust lands.

STRATEGY 5: IMPROVE SAFETY & SECURITY

The transportation investments in Horizon 2045 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. This applies regardless of whether a person is walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation.

STRATEGY 8: PROMOTE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Horizon 2045 has identified the need for SRTC to provide additional coordination and leadership, to ensure cross-jurisdictional solutions.

EVALUATION

Horizon 2045 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 2045 sets performance targets for safety, pavement condition, bridge condition, travel time reliability, freight reliability, air quality, public transit asset management (TAM), and public transit safety. More information on the performance targets can be found in the System Performance Report (Appendix D).

