

Island County Transportation Element Update: Summary of comments and questions received as of August 1, 2014

	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS	RESPONSE / CURRENT STATUS
1	<i>Signage is needed at public beaches and road ends to clearly identify public access points to and from the water.</i>	This will be assessed during the update to the County's non-motorized trail plan (anticipated for 2015 or later)
2	<i>Population and employment forecasting methodology is too simplistic and does not account for global factors like resource depletion and climate change.</i>	The methodology used reflects the current best practices for forecasting population and employment trends. The forecasts represent a best guess about the growth that could be reasonably expected to occur by 2036 and is based off of the data that is the most reliable and readily available. If significant changes to population and employment trends due to dramatic global events occur before the next scheduled update to the plan, the forecasts can be revised to take this information into account.
3	<i>The proliferation of signs and banners along our roads is trashy and distracting.</i>	Signs installed in Island County shall conform with the County's Sign Ordinance. The current ordinance was adopted in December, 2012. The ordinance is available online at <a href="http://www.islandcounty.net/Planning/documents/C-146-12SignOrdinance.pdf">http://www.islandcounty.net/Planning/documents/C-146-12SignOrdinance.pdf</a>
4	<i>Will increases in staffing at NAS Whidbey bring additional funding for local transportation projects?</i>	No. The Navy does not directly provide funding to local agencies for transportation improvements.
5	<i>Please consider "alternative" modes such as bicycling in the plan.</i>	Key alternative mode projects along roads will be identified and prioritized as part of the Transportation Element. The update to the County's non-motorized trail plan will identify additional improvements for alternative modes.
6	<i>Travel to/from Whidbey could be a major challenge during a large-scale emergency. What will happen if the Deception Pass Bridge or the ferries are out of service for a significant amount of time?</i>	Island County is part of the eight county Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Program and has a detailed action plan for coordinated responses to such emergencies. Visit <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/publications/#r">http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/publications/#r</a> for more information.
7	<i>The regional travel demand model should include Snohomish County, not Skagit County.</i>	Of all the counties that connect to Island County, the highest percentage of trips are to/from Snohomish County. These trips will be included in the model. Travel to/from Skagit County also represents a significant portion of trips; these too will be modeled.
8	<i>What is the deal with the state's concurrency requirement for Island County?</i>	In Washington State, there is a law that requires developments to mitigate the additional strain they will put on the nearby transportation facilities. In most counties this typically just applies to local roads, but on Whidbey Island the law also applies to state highways. It is a unique situation in that a local development proposal may be denied on Whidbey Island due to a deficiency on a state road. Ideas for administering the concurrency requirement will be explored as part of the Transportation Element.
9	<i>Please keep roads in good shape so they don't need to be completely rebuilt.</i>	Island County is committed to maintaining the roads it has jurisdiction over to the maximum extent possible. WSDOT, Island County, the Cities of Langley and Oak Harbor, and the Town of Coupeville have been working cooperatively to secure funds from a variety of state and federal sources to maintain our roads before they need to be completely rebuilt. However, many of the funding sources available are limited to certain classifications of roads, which hinders the ability to repave local streets.
10	<i>Public meetings should be advertised more widely.</i>	We will issue press releases to local news outlets in advance of any public meetings. Please also check the project website for the most current updates, including notices of upcoming public meetings.
11	<i>Build a road to the South Whidbey Air Park to provide access to the area zoned for light manufacturing.</i>	Island County recently began a feasibility study for a road to this area. This study is listed on the County's current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). More information will be available once the study is completed.
12	<i>Add more park &amp; rides and expand transit service, including paratransit service, throughout the county.</i>	Questions and comments related to transit will be forwarded to Island Transit for consideration. Additionally, the Skagit-Island Human Services Transportation Plan will be updated in 2014 and will provide an opportunity to evaluate increases in paratransit service.
13	<i>Build roundabouts at intersections along SR-20, particularly at Ault Field Road.</i>	WSDOT is responsible for transportation improvement projects along state routes, including SR-20 on Whidbey Island. Questions and comments related to state routes will be forwarded to WSDOT. WSDOT has built several roundabouts throughout the state starting in 1997. More information is available at <a href="http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Safety/roundabouts/washingtons.htm">http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Safety/roundabouts/washingtons.htm</a>
14	<i>How is sales tax revenue generated by Island County residents in off-county purchases returned to Island County to fund transportation needs? Is this a fair system for a "bedroom community"?</i>	This is an interesting question, but it is not something that can be addressed as part of the Transportation Element.
15	<i>What is the impact of Federal, State, and County Government of ownership of superfluous land (under utilized for government function) on transportation needs? If some of this land were sold for private ownership, what would be the transportation impact? The fiscal impact?</i>	When the County sells surplus property, the proceeds go into the County's General Fund. The Board of Island County Commissioners have the discretion to allocate these funds to any department, program, or project.
16	<i>Storm water retention ponds for community storm water management. For example, the storm drainage from Green Road (Oak Harbor NE) collects from about a mile of watershed / shoreline frontage. It discharges into Skagit Bay with consistently elevated fecal coliform levels. There is no retention pond. There is extreme (12' deep ditch) erosion at the County's outfall.</i>	This comment has been forwarded to Island County's Surface Water Manger.
17	<i>Fuel emissions and fuel dumping by the Navy needs to be monitored by an independent agency.</i>	This comment has been forwarded to NAS Whidbey.
18	<i>Ask the Navy to open the Nord Gate for public so that there is an alternative route to Deception Pass.</i>	This comment has been forwarded to NAS Whidbey.
19	<i>Provide bicycle access through the guardrail along SR-20 at Penn Cove Road.</i>	This comment has been forwarded to WSDOT for consideration.