

# Washington Transportation Investment Strategy Committee

## Problem Statement

Currently, the processes used by WSDOT and the RTPOs does not provide a clear, regular, and agreed-upon collaborative method to reach consensus on prioritization of strategic state investments, to bring to the legislature to inform the budget process.

There are three main reasons we arrived at this problem statement:

1. The regional plans do not provide funding discretion – they do not differentiate between near-term and long-term projects, or projects that are higher in priority. Therefore, the amounts needed to fund the regional plans are significantly above any funding that could be available in the near term. We need to identify where we can bring discretion to the regional plans, while focusing on key investment priorities).
2. There needs to be a better understanding of the State’s budget development process - particularly how the legislature works with WSDOT - and how stakeholders and RTPOs can influence this process.
3. Because there is no discretion, and little or no collaboration on near term priorities within the plans, they are not referred to in the legislative process. If a process is developed to collaboratively vet and prioritize transportation investments, the outcomes would have more value with the legislature.

*Note: The Investment Strategy effort is focused on the process among WSDOT and the state’s MPOs and RTPOs for coordinating transportation investment priorities in an increasingly revenue constrained environment. While the outcomes may be useful for all transportation decision makers – local, regional, DOT, and legislature – this process is not intended to propose limitations on the existing local and legislative processes.*