

# TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY for Washington State *PHASE II*

February 2023

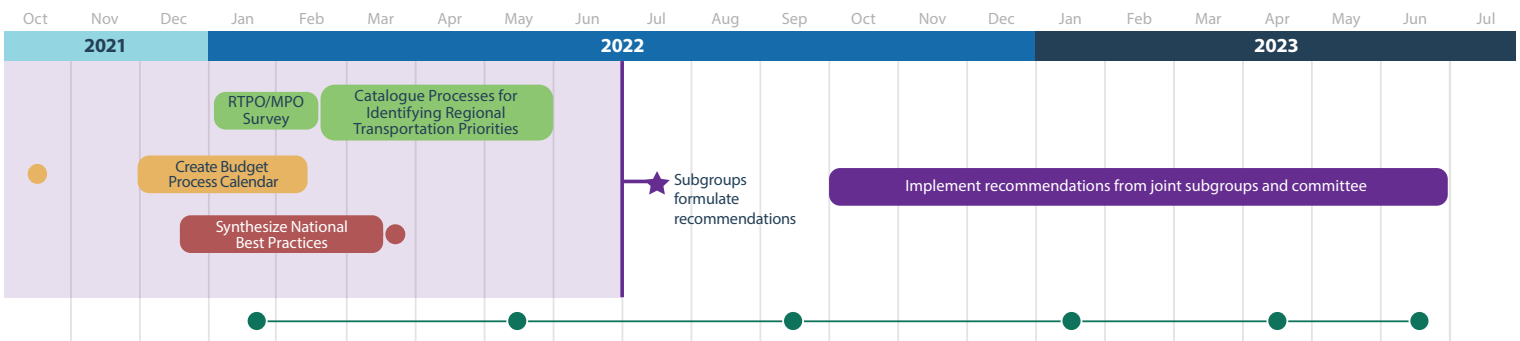
Staff from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) are building a collaborative approach to identify transportation priorities.

This will help the state legislature and other decision makers select which transportation projects to fund and make other budgeting decisions.

## The Approach

In *Phase I*, which ran through February 2021, the Investment Strategy Committee identified three key issues to resolve. Then it created subgroups to build a strategy for each. In *Phase II*, the committee is pursuing those strategies.

● Meetings and Workshops ★ Outcomes ■ Strategy A ■ Strategy B ■ Strategy C ■ Investment Strategy Committee ■ Implementation



### Strategy A



#### Tailoring for the Near Term

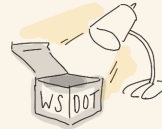
##### ISSUE

Regional plans vary in how they differentiate between near-term and long-term projects, or projects of higher priority.

##### STRATEGY

The Committee looked into identifying a common set of tools to prioritize transportation investments for near-term legislative funding. As a result, the Committee recommended holding an annual WSDOT/MPO/RTPO workshop that focuses on local and regional alignment.

### Strategy B



#### Illuminating the Process

##### ISSUE

Stakeholders and RTPOs need to better understand how the State develops budgets — particularly how the legislature works with WSDOT — and how to influence the process.

##### STRATEGY

WSDOT hosted a workshop with RTPOs/MPOs to outline how investment priorities are identified, how budget requests are developed and submitted to the Governor, and how informal requests for new revenue are addressed. As a result, the Committee recommended developing a biennial budget process calendar, holding regular information updates with RTPOs/MPOs, including sharing the State of Transportation and budget de-briefings, and developing an MPO/RTPO Informational Paper.

### Strategy C



#### Focusing on Recommended Priorities

##### ISSUE

Statewide needs may not have consistent advocacy due to varying degrees of collaboration on statewide priorities within regional plans, and different methods of legislative engagement.

##### STRATEGY

The Committee researched national best practices for collaborative prioritization processes. As a result, the Committee recommended holding an annual WSDOT/MPO/RTPO workshop focused on local and regional alignment and to explore opportunities for legislative engagement.

For more information and to sign up for email updates: [wainvestmentstrategy.org](http://wainvestmentstrategy.org)

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