

# 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, Planning Commission Public Workshop - Transportation Element, March 17, 2015

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## Small Group Flip-Chart Notes

### Question key for all groups:

1. What do you think the top priorities should be for Skagit County's transportation system?
2. What are the most important transportation needs for maintaining a healthy economy in Skagit County?
3. What should Skagit County's role be in promoting non-motorized transportation and physical activity, relative to the role of the cities and towns?
4. With roadway maintenance and capacity expansion needs greater than the amount of available funding, how should Skagit County address the shortfall?

### Group Answers

#### Group One (Facilitator: Dale Pernula)

**Question One: What do you think the top priorities should be for Skagit County's transportation system?**

- a. Improved access for disabilities
- b. High quality public transportation
- c. Safe intersections at railroad crossings
- d. Maintenance of existing infrastructure
- e. Non-motorized – connecting communities
- f. Transportation safety – all modes

**Question Two: What are the most important transportation needs for maintaining a healthy economy in Skagit County?**

- a. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access
- b. Keep highways, airport, and waterways uncongested
- c. High-tech support
- d. Flexibility to respond to business and life changes
- e. Improve bridge capacity
- f. Congestion at railroad crossings
- g. Road width requirement for new development

**Question Three:** What should Skagit County’s role be in promoting non-motorized transportation and physical activity, relative to the role of the cities and towns?

- a. Access. Facilities
- b. Prioritize connection between cities
- c. Improve coordination between jurisdictions
- d. Public education on non-motorized transportation safety campaign
- e. Off-road facilities
- f. Adopt “Vision 0” approach (zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries)
- g. Share the road

**Question Four:** With roadway maintenance and capacity expansion needs greater than the amount of available funding, how should Skagit County address the shortfall?

- a. Seek grants
- b. Increase funds to transportation
- c. Timber fee revenues
- d. Invest in current infrastructure
- e. Impact fees for new development
- f. Prioritize on ADTs (road segments with the highest Average Daily Traffic counts)
- g. Development should pay for itself

## **Group Two (Facilitator: Jeff Arango)**

**Question One:** What do you think the top priorities should be for Skagit County’s transportation system?

- a. Vehicles/daily use
- b. Support the economy
- c. Coordination between cities
- d. Safety
- e. Maintenance
- f. Freight mobility
- g. Coordination between counties
- h. Funding and right-of-way acquisition

**Question Two:** What are the most important transportation needs for maintaining a healthy economy in Skagit County?

- a. Freight mobility – truck, rail, and water
- b. Industrial and farm routes

- c. Size limits for freight at rail overpasses
- d. Balance with safety needs
- e. Impacts on residential areas from freight traffic

**Question Three:** What should Skagit County's role be in promoting non-motorized transportation and physical activity, relative to the role of the cities and towns?

- a. Regional connections
- b. Lower priority
- c. Publicize the routes
- d. Create vision and promote physical activity
- e. Prioritize routes

**Question Four:** With roadway maintenance and capacity expansion needs greater than the amount of available funding, how should Skagit County address the shortfall?

- a. Capitalize on other sources of funding (fish passage)
- b. Prioritize projects
- c. Increase ferry revenues
- d. Accept congestion
- e. Land use and growth patterns outside of county
- f. Cost effective maintenance (chip seal)
- g. Small scale capacity improvements (turn lanes)
- h. Public transportation

### **Group Three (Facilitator: Kirk Johnson)**

**Question One:** What do you think the top priorities should be for Skagit County's transportation system?

- a. Robust transportation system that benefits economy/workers/businesses
- b. Non-motorized transportation can provide multiple benefits:
  - o Reduces traffic congestion
  - o Reduces reliance on single occupancy vehicle trips
  - o Improves public health
  - o Increases regional connections
  - o Increases integration of transportation systems
- c. Important to provide public transit/non-motorized options for all users
- d. Rural county consideration

- Lack of public transit system in rural areas
- Transportation/non-motorized planning is mainly an urban concept
- Need to consider cost and how we spend money for planning and transportation
- Limited \$, spend where most essential
- Focus on transportation needs of agriculture
- Ask farmers, ag workers, upriver river
- e. Look at the system and how we might separate users to reduce conflicts
  - Non-motorized vs hauling/truck
  - Be strategic
  - Emphasize creating safe options

**Question Two:** What are the most important transportation needs for maintaining a healthy economy in Skagit County?

- a. Transportation
  - Commerce
  - Tourism – source of revenue
  - Getting out of cars, non-motorized
- b. Healthy economy
  - Consider needs of county residents
  - Safety
  - Consider employee transportation needs
- c. Have not planned land use and housing very well
- d. Transportation for agriculture
- e. Maintain agriculture land base and their system
  - Complex; need to resolve and acknowledge differences in needs
- f. Enhance what we have
- g. Get more tourism/outdoor recreation economic data
- h. Resident resources
  - Who are transit and non-motorized users, people who don't drive?
  - Various life stages: kids, older adults
- i. What is tourism? Not just outsiders, many Skagit residents engage in local tourism

**Question Three:** What should Skagit County's role be in promoting non-motorized transportation and physical activity, relative to the role of the cities and towns?

- a. Acknowledge a link between health and planning, active living

- b. Connect non-urban areas with urban areas
- c. Skagit County should step up and provide leadership to support a safe, connected and integrated non-motorized system
  - o Funding resources to support
  - o Include transit
  - o Make connections between jurisdictions
- d. County can't tell cities what to do
- e. It's all one transportation systems. Without coordination, things can be fragmented.
- f. Skagit County can take leadership role, encourage joint standards
- g. Allocate funds strategically;
  - o Not all rural roads conducive to non-motorized transportation
  - o Many are narrow, curvy, blind spots, ditches on each side
  - o Can be hazardous for bike riders
  - o Safety should be first priority
  - o How much is spent on non-motorized? What facilities exist, how safe are they?
  - o Not good evaluation and monitoring of existing spending/facilities

**Question Four:** With roadway maintenance and capacity expansion needs greater than the amount of available funding, how should Skagit County address the shortfall?

- a. Prioritize projects for roads, non-motorized trails, transit, maintenance and capacity expansion
- b. What are the assets? Top priorities?
  - o Take care of these
  - o Don't take on everything
- c. Where can we get make the biggest bank for the buck?
- d. Need more money
  - o Look to generate new funding sources
  - o Grants
  - o Volunteers
  - o Private/public partnerships

#### **Group Four (Facilitator: Gary Christensen)**

**Question One: What do you think the top priorities should be for Skagit County's transportation system?**

- a. Maintenance and preservation of existing facilities and expansion of existing
- b. Safety

- c. Pro-active vs reactive
- d. Preserve character and culture
- e. Avoid gridlock
- f. Securing funding sources from the feds, state, and local

**Question Two:** What are the most important transportation needs for maintaining a healthy economy in Skagit County?

- a. Avoid gridlock, want free flowing movement
- b. Rail transportation for goods, services, people, freight; rail crossings
- c. Multi-modal and inter-model transportation system
- d. Maintenance of railroad tracks and beds
- e. Airport expansion

**Question Three:** What should Skagit County's role be in promoting non-motorized transportation and physical activity, relative to the role of the cities and towns?

- a. Cities and towns should develop their own plans
- b. Coordinate with the county
- c. Safety Improvements
  - o RCW 9A.52 (Burglary and Trespass)
  - o Property rights
  - o Skagit County role – law enforcement
- d. Safe routes for schools, trails, and walkways

**Question Four:** With roadway maintenance and capacity expansion needs greater than the amount of available funding, how should Skagit County address the shortfall?

- a. Ranking/criteria
  - o Re-prioritize
- b. Partnering on projects/mutual benefits
- c. Seek new money or matching funds
- d. County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), Skagit County Council of Governments (SCOG)
  - o Lobbying the feds and state for priority projects