

# Priority Lists

## It Depends...Why?

- Most funding sources have narrow eligibility constraints and serve different purposes
- Regional and Local entities have little influence on the availability of funding, and how funds are partitioned among the myriad programs
- RTPO priority lists are therefore fluid, in response to the context and funds available

# Recent Examples

- WSTC “Top 20” (in process)
- 2010 STP-Regional for Chelan and Douglas Counties (upcoming this fall)
- Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (A, B & C project ranking in process)
- 2010 Transportation Enhancements
- 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- 2010 “ARRA 2” (just in case; not used)

# Our “Top 20” Process, So Far...

- ‘Call for Projects’ to cities, counties & others
- Submittal limit of 3 projects per jurisdiction
- WSDOT Region submitted 15
- Iterative, qualitative debate
- Shared effort between NCRTPO and WVTC
- Leaning towards high-cost projects
- Balance with geographic and multi-modal equity

# Positive Observations

- Opportunity to showcase unconstrained needs
- No mandated constraints on how we prioritize
- May have staying power as a standing list that we update and maintain indefinitely

# Concerns

- Uncertainty about how this list will be used
- Implications for projects not identified on this list
- Lingering anxiety from ARRA 'fire drills'
- Risk of misjudging the type of revenue that could potentially fund these projects

# Key Messages

- Commission support for reporting preservation projects separately = important & appreciated
- Local governments need increase in direct return from state motor fuel tax to catch up with preservation & maintenance programs
- State motor fuel tax does have long-term viability, especially for system preservation; improvements can come from other revenue sources
- Devolution of funding responsibility to local government undermines the state transportation system – these projects illustrate the importance of expanding statewide user-pay revenue mechanisms