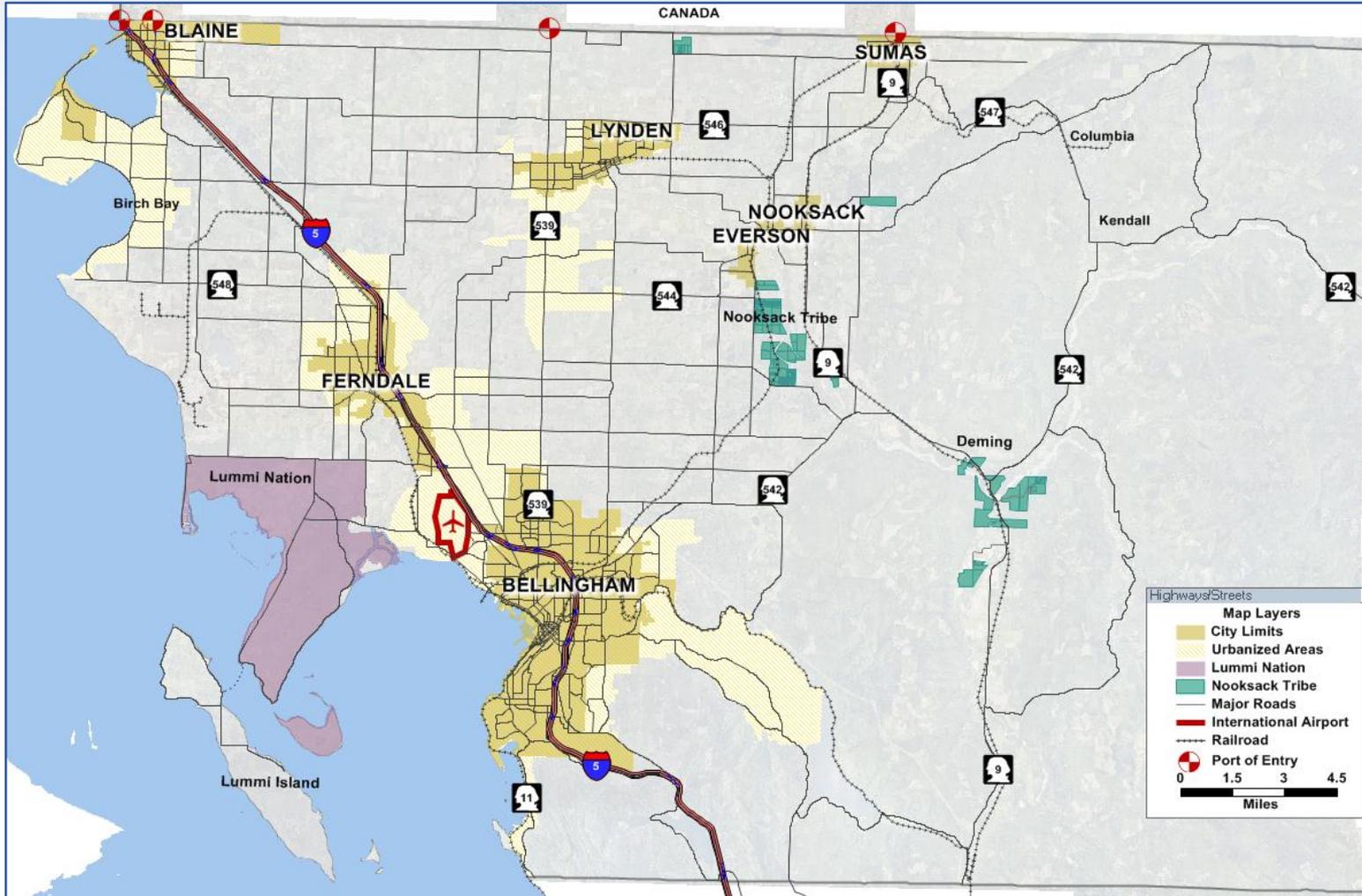




whatcom council of governments



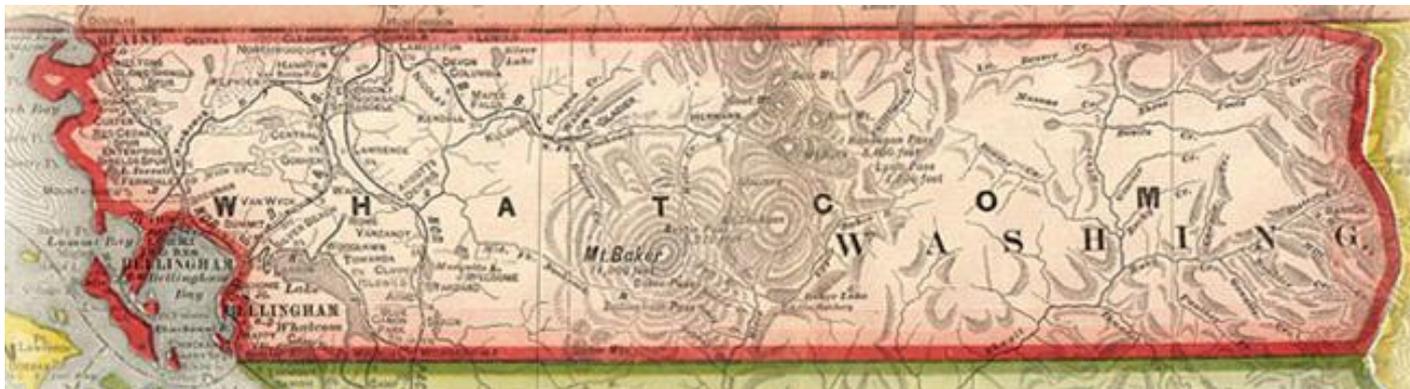
Whatcom Metropolitan Planning Area



2013 Population: 206,353



2,504 square miles (land area: 2,107 sq. mi.)



Who We Are

- WCOG was established in 1966 along with other regional councils in Washington by an act of the State Legislature
- Designated as the MPO for the Bellingham Urbanized Area by Gov. John Spellman in 1982
- Designated as the RTPO for all of Whatcom County in 1990

- **Voting Members:**

- City of Bellingham
- City of Blaine
- City of Everson
- City of Ferndale
- City of Lynden
- City of Nooksack
- City of Sumas
- Whatcom County
- Port of Bellingham
- Birch Bay Water & Sewer District
- Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District



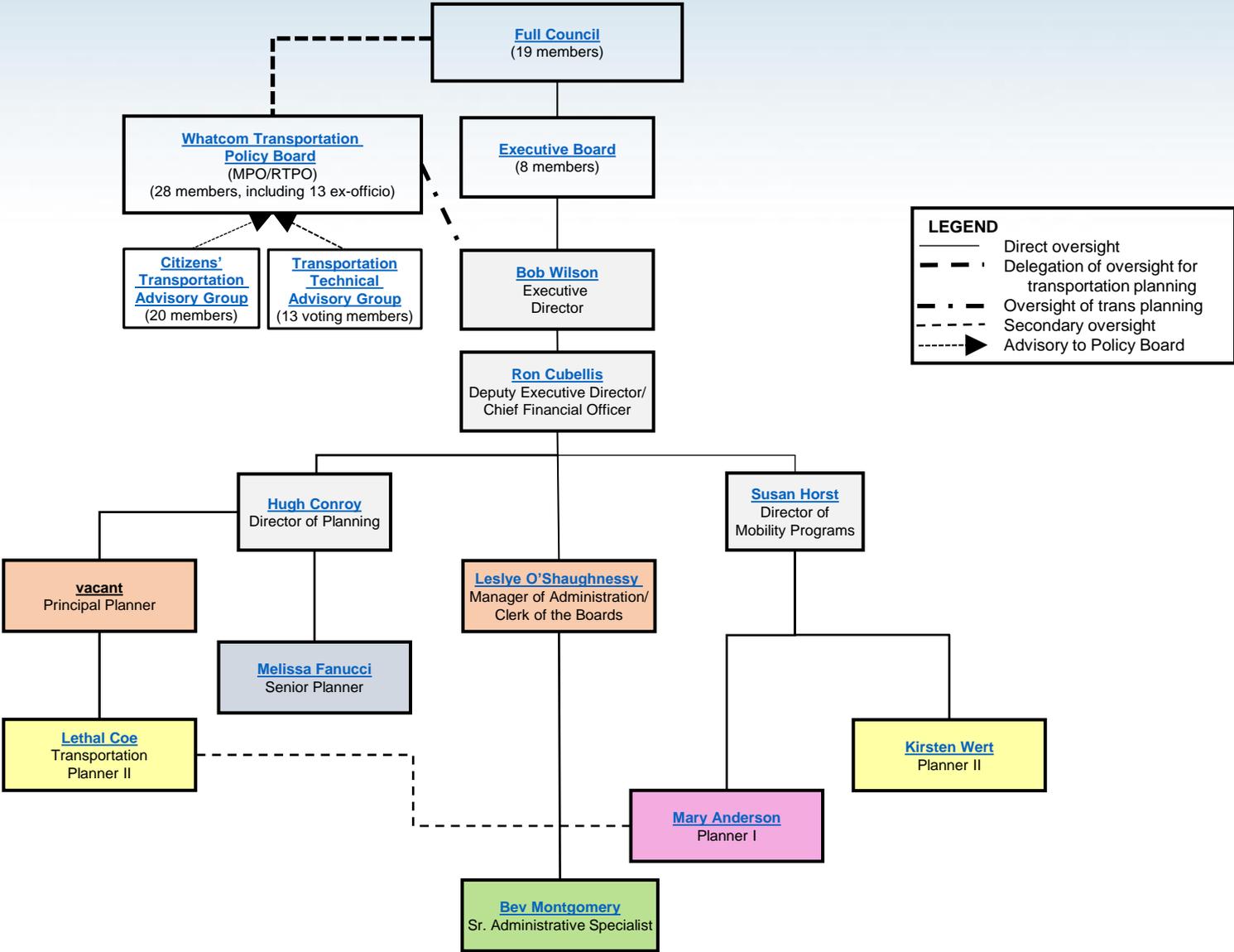
- Whatcom Transportation Policy Board includes the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, Whatcom Transportation Authority and WSDOT
- Ten-member staff with one vacancy

WCOG Boards and Committees

- The Full Council (WCOG's governing body)
- Executive Board
- Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
- Transportation Technical Advisory Group
- Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group
- Northwest Economic Council



Whatcom Council of Governments 2014 Organizational Structure



LEGEND

- Direct oversight
- - - Delegation of oversight for transportation planning
- · - Oversight of trans planning
- · · Secondary oversight
- - - ▸ Advisory to Policy Board



WHAT IS WCOG?

The Whatcom Council of Governments was formed in 1966 – along with other regional councils in Washington – by an act of the State Legislature. We coordinate transportation planning in Whatcom County and administer and operate other programs for the benefit of the County's 206,000 residents.

JOB OPENING

Job opening for Principal Transportation Planner - [download the job announcement.](#)

RECENT DOCUMENTS

Select Document... ▼



UPCOMING MEETINGS

CTAG Meeting May. 13 2014
3:30pm - 5:30pm
WCOG Offices

Executive Board Meeting May. 14 2014
3:00pm - 3:30pm
WCOG Offices

Transportation Policy Board Meeting May. 14 2014
3:30pm - 5:00pm
WCOG Offices
UPWP Approval

U.S. - CANADA BORDER ISSUES

Find out more about WCOG's cross-border work as part of the [IMTC program.](#)

SEARCH OUR SITE

Search

2013 CROSS-BORDER SURVEY

RESULTS
More info about the ongoing 2013-2014 survey of cross-border travelers [here.](#)

BAKerview-GRANDVIEW STUDY

Read more about the new [Bakerview-Grandview Transportation Analysis.](#)

ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL

Para asistencia inmediata en español, por favor llame al Sr. Andres Gomez al (360) 676-6974.

What We Do

- Metropolitan and regional transportation planning
- Analyzing needs, building consensus and facilitating improvements to the Cascade Gateway ports-of-entry (IMTC)
- Facilitating the use of sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, bicycling, bus transit and ridesharing (Whatcom Smart Trips)



Regional Road Network

1,921 total miles of roadway

1,176 miles of rural roads



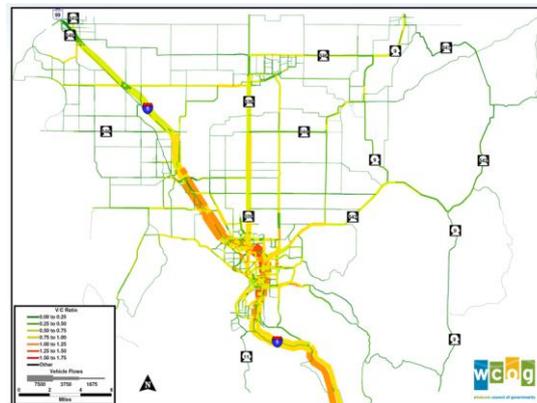
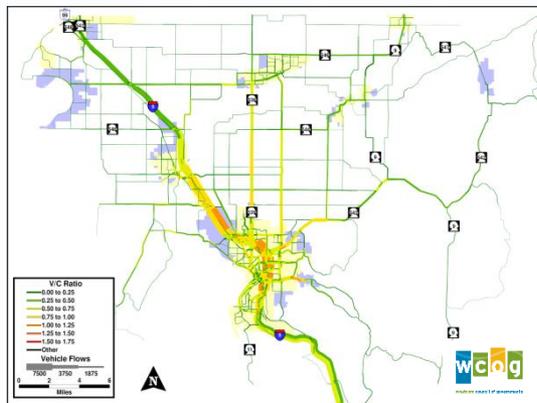
219 miles of arterials, including I-5



745 miles of urban roads



Regional Transportation Factors

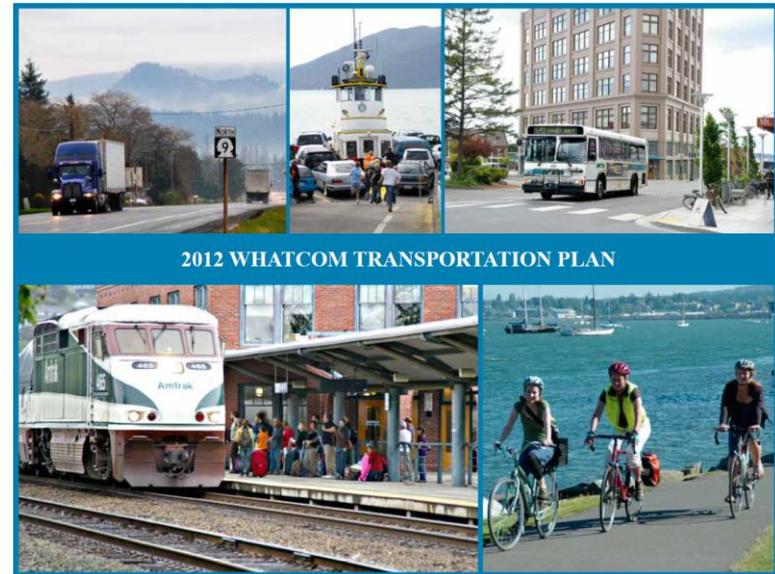


Continued growth in traffic volume on the regional network induced and/or exacerbated by:

- Population growth (38% projected increase to 2040)
- Canadian travel into and through the Region:
 - Shopping trips
 - Use of Bellingham International Airport
 - Travel to points south
- Commercial and residential development pressure
- Inadequate capacity
- Aging infrastructure that must be taken out of service for repair or replacement
- Potential funding decline for transit
- Potential elimination of TDM programs

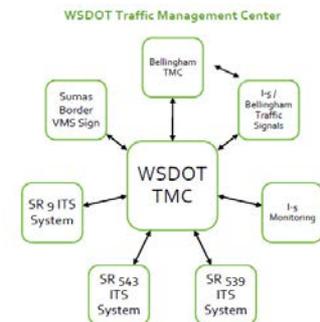
2012 Whatcom Transportation Plan

- Socio-economic, demographic and travel demand forecasts
- Whatcom's motorized and non-motorized system
- Programs and Projects
 - Safety Initiatives
 - Intelligent Transportation Systems
 - Whatcom Smart Trips
 - Project Solutions and Prioritization
 - IMTC
- Financial Planning
- Implementation Strategies



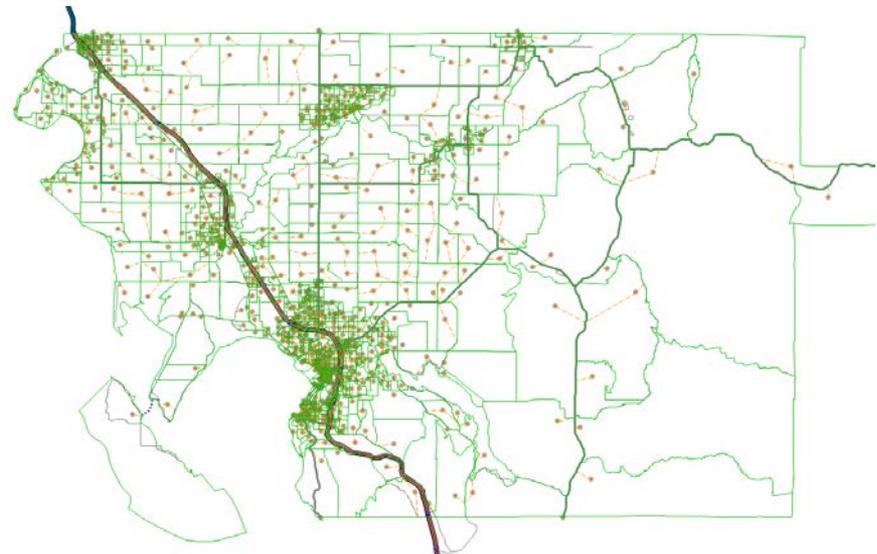
2012 Whatcom Transportation Plan Strategies

1. Public Information and Education
2. Safety
3. Access
4. Environmental Justice
5. Connectivity
6. Freight Mobility
7. Congestion and Mobility
8. Transportation Demand Management
9. Multi-modal Transportation
10. Intelligent Transportation Systems
11. Land Use
12. Health
13. Public Participation



WCOG Regional Travel Demand Model

- Developed by WCOG using a TransCAD platform
- Simulates automobile and truck flows on regional highways and forecasts future demand using the four-step process:
 - trip generation
 - trip distribution
 - mode choice
 - route assignment
- Used to develop travel-demand scenarios reflecting differing transportation networks and/or land-use patterns that compare factors such as VMT, VHT, traffic volumes and travel times
- Outputs from the model can be used for further analysis with other tools such as air quality models or to inform traffic operations



Current WCOG Grant Applications

- **Safe Routes to School Program: Kendall/Columbia Valley Connectivity Plan**
- **TIGER VI: Cascade Gateway Integrated Investment Strategy Supporting Economic Development**
- **FHWA: Integrated Corridor Management (IMTC)**

Kendall/Columbia Valley Connectivity Plan

- Goal to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Kendall area along State Route 547
- Connection between East Whatcom Regional Resource Center and Kendall Elementary School
- Team members include WCOG, Whatcom County Health Department, WSDOT, National Parks Service, churches, North Fork Library, citizens



- Application submitted to WSDOT for a \$150,000 Bike/Pedestrian Program grant for project planning

International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program

- Established by WCOG in 1997
- More than 50 participants, including:
 - FHWA
 - Transport Canada
 - BCMOT
 - WSDOT
 - U.S. CBP
 - CBSA
 - Business and trade organizations
 - Border cities
 - Canadian and U.S. consulates
 - WCOG
- Goals:
 - Facilitate ongoing communication among cross-border transportation and security agencies
 - Coordinate planning of the Cascade Gateway as a transportation and inspection *system*
 - Improve and distribute traffic data
 - Identify and pursue improvements to infrastructure, operations, and information technology.



The Farmhouse Gang

- Established by WCOG in 2001, the North Sound Connecting Communities, a/k/a “The Farmhouse Gang,” is a super-regional coalition of Washington’s five northwest counties: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom
- The Farmhouse Gang’s goals are:
 - Improving connections and sustaining and expanding services
 - Providing public information about transportation services in the region to enhance awareness of the regional transportation network
 - Being innovative in the pursuit of funding from a variety of sources
 - Collecting travel and system data to identify areas of possible improvement
 - Enhancing mobility through sustainable innovative transportation solutions
- Completed and ongoing initiatives include:
 - Regional Transportation Governance Study
 - Intermodal Connections and Commuter Study
 - Inter-County Transit Service
 - Traveler Information Kiosk System
 - Business case study of passenger-only ferry service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor



Whatcom Smart Trips

SMART TRIPS

