



Construction Traffic Management Program

What is the program?

The Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT's) Construction Traffic Management program includes a variety of strategies to help keep people and traffic moving during construction. Nationally, 10 percent of traffic congestion is due to construction. With an unprecedented highway construction program and a growing population, this percentage is likely to be notably higher in Washington State. We must intensify these strategies, improve efficiency and manage demand to keep people and goods moving while delivering an unprecedented amount of construction.

How does the program help reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)?

The Construction Traffic Management program helps reduce VMT by:

- Allowing us to develop demand management partnerships and implement demand management projects and programs targeted to key construction projects, schedules and corridors
- Through construction closures providing a compelling reason for drivers and employers to sample efficient travel alternatives like carpools, transit, vanpools, walking, teleworking, bicycling, variable work schedules and incorporate them into their daily lives. Construction mitigation projects and programs provide capacity and access to these alternatives so they are viable during construction
- Many capital and operating investments tied to construction management will have utility beyond construction
- Allowing us to test and measure performance of demand management projects and services

What is happening now (current status/activities)?

Pilot programs to reduce demand on affected highways are underway on the Eastside of Lake Washington to support I-405 construction and will begin in the Seattle area next year to support Alaskan Way Viaduct construction south of the stadiums. Performance measurement results will help inform future demand management decisions. WSDOT is also:

- Conducting more advance construction schedule planning and analysis, which sets the stage for more robust traffic management and mitigation efforts
- Developing new systems to track construction schedules and analyze their likely impact on traffic
- Working with transportation demand management implementation partners to engage them in advance to plan for traffic impacts due to construction

What can we be doing with existing resources to enhance the program's ability to reduce VMT?

To enhance the Construction Traffic Management program's ability to reduce VMT, WSDOT can:

- Continue to enlist local and regional partners to collaborate
- Incorporate construction traffic management as criteria for grant programs
- Develop mitigation projects and services that support multiple construction projects
- Develop technology to streamline construction and TDM coordination, analysis and measurement
- Expedite traveler information system improvement
- Share information about performance of mitigation efforts
- Incorporate mitigation planning and funding into early phases of project development, including programming, planning and design

What could we (or should we) be doing with additional resources? (i.e. where are the opportunities for growth/enhancement)?

Additional funding and staff resources would allow WSDOT to:

- Test concepts and measure their performance related to VMT reduction and system efficiency during construction
- Systemwide and targeted mitigation implementation projects and services
- Provide support construction tracking, analysis and performance measurement
- Ensure that implementation partners like transit agencies, local jurisdictions, businesses, non-governmental organizations and other WSDOT programs, have the capacity to accommodate additional demand for travel alternatives
- Improve traveler information

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