



Kitsap Telework Pilot Project (Proposed Program)

What is the program?

The legislature provided \$150,000 in 2007-2009 for the Kitsap Telework Pilot Project. The primary purposes of the pilot project are to educate employers about teleworking; develop telework policies and resources for employers; and reduce traffic congestion by encouraging teleworking in the workplace. The Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council is implementing the pilot project. The council will recruit public and private sector employer participants throughout the county, identify telework sites, develop an employer's toolkit, and create a teleworking template that may be used in other communities. WSDOT is administering the state funds and providing technical assistance to support the project.

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

Telework reduces commute VMT because teleworkers work at home or at a telework center that is closer to home than the workplace. A successful pilot project could lead to a reduction in commute vehicle miles traveled for many Kitsap peninsula residents.

What is happening now (current status/activities)?

project is in the start-up phase as of May 30, 2008. The Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council is gathering existing materials and best practices and beginning to reach out to employers. The council is required to submit a summary of the program results and recommendations for future telework strategies to the legislature by July 1, 2009.

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

This is a pilot project and the scope has fully utilized existing resources. The lessons learned and recommendations from the pilot can help guide future investments and policies for telework and VMT reduction.

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

Additional resources could be distributed as grants to organizations that seek to introduce or expand teleworking in the state. Tax credits could be provided for organizations that provide incentives for telework or have measured reductions in VMT from teleworking. The lessons learned and recommendations from the pilot can help guide future investments and policies for telework.

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