



February 22, 2020

**Re: Support for Review and Revision of Transportation Policy Goals (RCW 47.04.280) and Transparent Transportation Planning and Project Selection**

Dear Senator Hobbs, Representative Fey, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the [American Planning Association \(APA\) Washington Chapter](#), representing over 1,200 planners, policy makers, and allied professionals across the state, we would like to share our support for your efforts to review and revise the State Transportation Policy Goals (RCW [47.04.280](#)) and establish a more transparent and criteria-based transportation planning and project prioritization process by hearing the following bills this session:

- [SB 6452](#) and its companion [HB 2461](#) (addressing health); and
- [HB 2285](#) (addressing maintenance);
- [SB 6398](#) and its companion [HB 2688](#) (revising transportation goals and advancing performance-based project selection).

We recognize both the challenges involved in establishing new metrics by which to measure transportation, as well as the significant amount of work that is involved in making a transition to a new way of evaluating projects before they are included in a transportation budget authorization. APA Washington supports state transportation policy goals that are connected to and help implement Washington's Growth Management Act resulting in a performance-based, outcome-driven transportation planning and funding process. We believe better integration of land use and transportation goals is critical and necessary to meet the state's housing needs, greenhouse gas and VMT reduction targets and economic development goals. Our [legislative priorities for the 2020 session](#) specifically state:

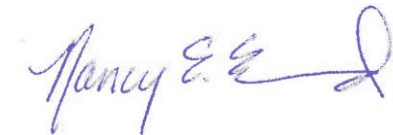
*Transportation is closely linked with land use, and transportation facilities and services are best provided using a structured, objective, and transparent project selection and development process. Planning for transportation must incorporate multimodal solutions, connectivity, safety, context-sensitivity, and maintenance needs.*

Most planners in Washington are familiar with applying for transportation grants through various state agencies including WSDOT, TIB, FMSIB, CRAB, RCO and our Regional Transportation Planning Organizations. We understand how criteria based project selection processes work and the role they play in ensuring the best and most cost-effective projects. We also see that the project lists and/or available funding amounts for these grant programs are approved ultimately by the State Legislature. We believe applying this kind of transparent, criteria based, and data driven approach to project selection for state funded transportation projects would ensure that state transportation planning requirements for public engagement, environmental review and environmental justice are met. The resulting projects would be assured to meet our state's evolving and increasing transportation needs by supporting and integrating with local land use plans.

Further, we see an opportunity to leverage the very limited transportation planning dollars by better coordinating state, regional and local level planning efforts and streamlining environmental reviews.

APA Washington is an organization of people who make great communities happen through our engagement in public and private sector planning and decision making. We share our experience, knowledge and resources, stay current on planning issues and ideas, and contribute to great places. APA Washington and its members welcome the opportunity to continue to engage in dialogue with you and with other key stakeholders on these important topics of State Transportation Policy Goals, land use and transportation integration, and greater transparency in transportation planning and project prioritization processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Eklund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter.

Nancy Eklund, AICP  
President, Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association