June 2017 marks a milestone for the Corridor Sketch Initiative, the product of a 2015 legislative funding measure. Below is a brief summary of what has been learned throughout the ongoing work program.

Community Engagement

WSDOT met with partner organizations and other stakeholders to determine what is working well and what needs to change on Washington state’s highway system.

Over 80 workshops and meetings occurred enhancing relationships with more than 230 partners. This work increased WSDOT’s and its partner’s awareness of Practical Solutions’ principles and methods. WSDOT also learned about specific issues that are important to its partners, including how local networks operate when state highways experience challenges.

Focus on Congestion

Planning offices around the state engaged with local partners about the corridors identified as having congestion. These congested locations were identified using a new highway system congestion screening tool developed by WSDOT.

The congestion screen provided the basis for multimodal, multidisciplinary, and multi-agency teams (M3 teams) to review and agree on congestion performance gaps, consider root causes, and assess alternative strategies.

Telling the Story of Every Corridor

Based on the engagement and analysis conducted, the results for every state highway have been documented in the Corridor Sketch Summaries, which are available online at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/corridor-sketch

Each Corridor Sketch Summary covers corridor context, highlights and performance, strategies, and external resources. If a corridor has any congestion performance gaps, a mobility assessment is included. Mobility assessments detail where the performance gap occurs and potential strategies for addressing the identified congestion.

What is The Corridor Sketch Initiative?

The Corridor Sketch Initiative is a new way for the Washington State Department of Transportation to work with partners to capture and document information about transportation corridors to inform investment decisions.

The CSI is one way that WSDOT implements Practical Solutions. Statewide implementation of the CSI is consistent with WSDOT’s strategic plan, Results WSDOT, and the Legislature’s Transportation Systems Policy Goals.

Consistent with Results WSDOT:

Strategic Investments
Performance-based planning to inform investment decisions, with a strategy for every corridor

Modal Integration
Considers all modes before system expansion

Environmental Stewardship
Identifies potential environmental issues early in the planning stage

Organizational Strength
Multidisciplinary team approach to identify and address performance gaps

Community Engagement
Provides a framework to engage partners statewide

Smart Technology
Creates “one-stop-shop” for easy access to corridor highlights
Accomplishments through June 2017

- Screening the entire state system for mainline congestion.
- Working with M3 teams to assess operational, travel demand management, and other cost-effective strategies prior to considering system expansion.
- Publishing Corridor Sketch Summaries. Each one acts an executive summary of WSDOT’s plan for the corridor. Note that information on funded projects is not typically included here, as that information can be found elsewhere.
- Enriching region-specific notes to help inform conversations with partners.

What’s Next

- Continually update and refine corridor sketches in 2018 and beyond. Posted corridors are the first set, with more to be added as documentation is complete.
- Conversion/upgrade to a GIS map product. Publishing PDFs on the website is a temporary solution; eventually, we will be replacing them with the GIS work already underway.
- Deepening analysis through site-specific studies and refine and rank proposed strategies.
- Take the cost-effective strategies from the Corridor Sketch and put them through integrated scoping process, which is part of the Refining Solutions step of Practical Solutions. Ultimately, results will be reflected in the Highway System Plan.

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