

# Freight Advisory Committee



December 10, 2025



Puget Sound Regional Council



*We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.*

[psrc.org/equity](https://psrc.org/equity)

# Today's Agenda

**1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30)**

**2. Action: Approval of Meeting Summary for October 8, 2025\* (9:35)**

**3. Discussion: NHFP Funding Process (9:40)**

PSRC staff will outline the process and schedule for the 2026 National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding competition.

**4. Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan (10:10)**

PSRC staff will provide an update on recent work in the development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), planned to be released for public review in mid-December. PSRC staff will also provide an overview of the freight storymap that is being developed for the RTP. **Committee members are asked to review the storymap prior to the meeting and provide their feedback during the discussion.**

The map is available at:

<https://gis.psrc.org/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/fc920d71a70b4280960b256795745c1f>

**5. Information: Freight Advisory Committee 2026 Calendar (10:50)**

The FAC 2026 meeting schedule can be viewed on the [PSRC Meeting Calendar](#).

**6. Discussion: Other Business and Announcements (10:55)**

**7. Adjourn (11:00)**

**8. Next Meeting: To be determined pending the Item #3 discussion**



# National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)

- NHFP is a federal formula program focused on improving freight movement
- WSDOT's 2026 State Freight System Plan update will include a project list outlining how state will spend its allocation of NHFP funds for FFY 2027–2032
- WSDOT is assuming similar funding as previous cycle\* – \$11 Million annually for local agency projects **statewide**

*\*Future federal funding amount, eligibility, timelines, and funding levels are subject to change pending congressional reauthorization or other federal actions, including state legislative appropriation*



# NHFP – MPO/RTPO Role

- Local agency projects to be coordinated at regional level
- PSRC to develop a regional list of priority freight projects
- Project submittals for the central Puget Sound Region are due to WSDOT by **February 27, 2026**



# NHFP – Project Requirements

- Projects must be included in formally adopted plan
- Projects must demonstrate project readiness for FFY 2027–2032
- 13.5% local match required
- Requested amount must be sufficient to fully fund phase when combined with other **secured** funding sources
- Projects must be eligible for NHFP funding (see next slide)



# NHFP – Project Eligibility

- PE / ROW / CN phases all permitted
- Wide variety of freight project types permitted including:
  - Bridge projects
  - Environmental mitigation
  - ITS / traffic signal optimization
  - Grade / mode separation
  - Geometric improvements
  - Truck lanes
  - Truck parking facilities
- See [23 U.S.C 167 \(h\)\(5\)](#) for complete list of eligible project types





# NHFP – Project Evaluation Criteria

- WSDOT has established a transparent process for evaluating the projects
- Criteria and measures are aligned with the six statewide policy goals
- Preservation and Safety are most heavily weighted
- Bonus points available for projects that improve truck parking, freight system resiliency, and enhance healthy communities



# NHFP – Project Selection Process

- WSDOT will convene a selection committee in Spring / Summer 2026
- Committee will include representatives from cities, counties, ports and MPOs/RTPOs
- Committee will recommend the projects to be awarded NHFP funds





# NHFP – Regional Project Submittal Process

PSRC will submit the regional project priorities to WSDOT by **February 27** by completing these steps:

- 1) Sponsors submit basic project info to PSRC  
    *->PSRC confirms eligibility of all projects submitted*
- 2) FAC review + concurrence of projects to be included on regional list  
    *->PSRC confirms sponsors OK to proceed with completing WSDOT project submission form*
- 3) Sponsors complete WSDOT project submission form  
    *-> Sponsors provide completed form + supporting info to PSRC*



# NHFP – Basic Project Information

**Sponsors must first submit basic project info to PSRC:**

- 1) Project title
- 2) Project location
- 3) Project length
- 4) Brief project description **outlining freight benefit**
- 5) Total project cost
- 6) Phase requested inc. total phase cost and amount of request
- 7) Sponsor contact info



# WSDOT NHFP Site

- Complete details, including the **project submission form** and related tools and resources for the 2026 NHFP process, are available at:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/freight-plans/national-highway-freight-program>

## National Highway Freight Program

Funding is provided for local freight transportation projects in Washington state under the National Highway Freight Program.

The National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) was established by Congress in the 2015 Fast Act as a federal-aid highway formula program to improve the efficient movement of freight. Per federal law, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) determines how the federal NHFP funds will be used for local projects in Washington state.

WSDOT also is required by federal law to update its [Freight System Plan](#) every four years. The last plan was completed in 2022. As part of the plan update, WSDOT will produce a freight investment plan (FIP) to describe how the state will invest NHFP funds over federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2027-2032.

**IMPORTANT:** The above assumes continued authorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and availability of federal funds for NHFP for FFYs 2027-2032. IIJA expires on September 30, 2026. Future federal funding amount, eligibility, and timelines, and funding levels are subject to change pending congressional reauthorization or other federal actions, including state legislative appropriation.

### FFY 2027-2032 NHFP freight project solicitation and selection process

WSDOT is working with Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (MPOs/RTPOs) to identify regional freight priorities for FFY 2027-2032 NHFP funding. The NHFP supports a wide range of freight-related investments, including roadway improvements, intermodal facilities, freight rail enhancements, and eligible marine highway and waterway projects.

- **MPO/RTPOs:** Encouraged to coordinate with area tribal governments and local jurisdiction members to develop a regional list of priority freight projects and complete project submittal package for the region.
- **Project sponsors (tribes, cities, counties, ports):** Encouraged to work with MPOs/RTPOs and submit completed project submission form and supporting documentation to the MPO/RTPO contact.

#### Contact information

Wenjuan Zhao  
Multimodal Freight Systems Planning  
Engineer  
[Wenjuan.Zhao@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Wenjuan.Zhao@wsdot.wa.gov)  
[360-705-6990](tel:360-705-6990)



# WSDOT Project Submission Form

Project Submission Form for National Highway Freight Program

## Project Submission Form for NHFP Program

### Available Resources

Please read the submission instruction sheet before completing this project submission form. The instruction sheet provides guidance on required information, eligible data types, examples of project concepts, and other information intended to help you complete this submission form with the best information possible.

An online map tool ([NHFP Data Tool](#)) is available to you for identifying various data sources relevant to your projects and can be used to answer some data-related questions in this project submission form. When statewide data is not available, you may supply your own data.

### Required Attachments

The following items must be included in the submission:

- A detailed project vicinity map in PDF format, with clearly marked project limits that show the project's location and its significant features.
- Please also include a GIS shapefile showing the actual alignment of the project if available.
- A cross-jurisdictional letter of concurrence if applicable (required for projects involving roadways/facilities owned or managed by other jurisdictions)

### Part 1 – Project Information

#### Contact Information

Project Sponsor/Owner:	
Contact Name:	
Contact Email Address:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Name of MPO or RTPO	

#### Project Scope

	Project Name:	
Location	Begin Project: Limit:	
	Start Latitude:	
	Start Longitude:	
	End Project: Limit:	
	End Latitude:	
	End Longitude:	
	*Note: Provide lat/long. in decimal degrees (e.g., W 120.111 Degrees)	

Project Submission Form for National Highway Freight Program

### Part 2 - Freight Project Benefits

Please answer the questions below to describe how your project meets the criteria. Provide summarized data and facts, if applicable. Clear, concise responses of 200 words or fewer are strongly encouraged.

#### Goal 1: Preservation

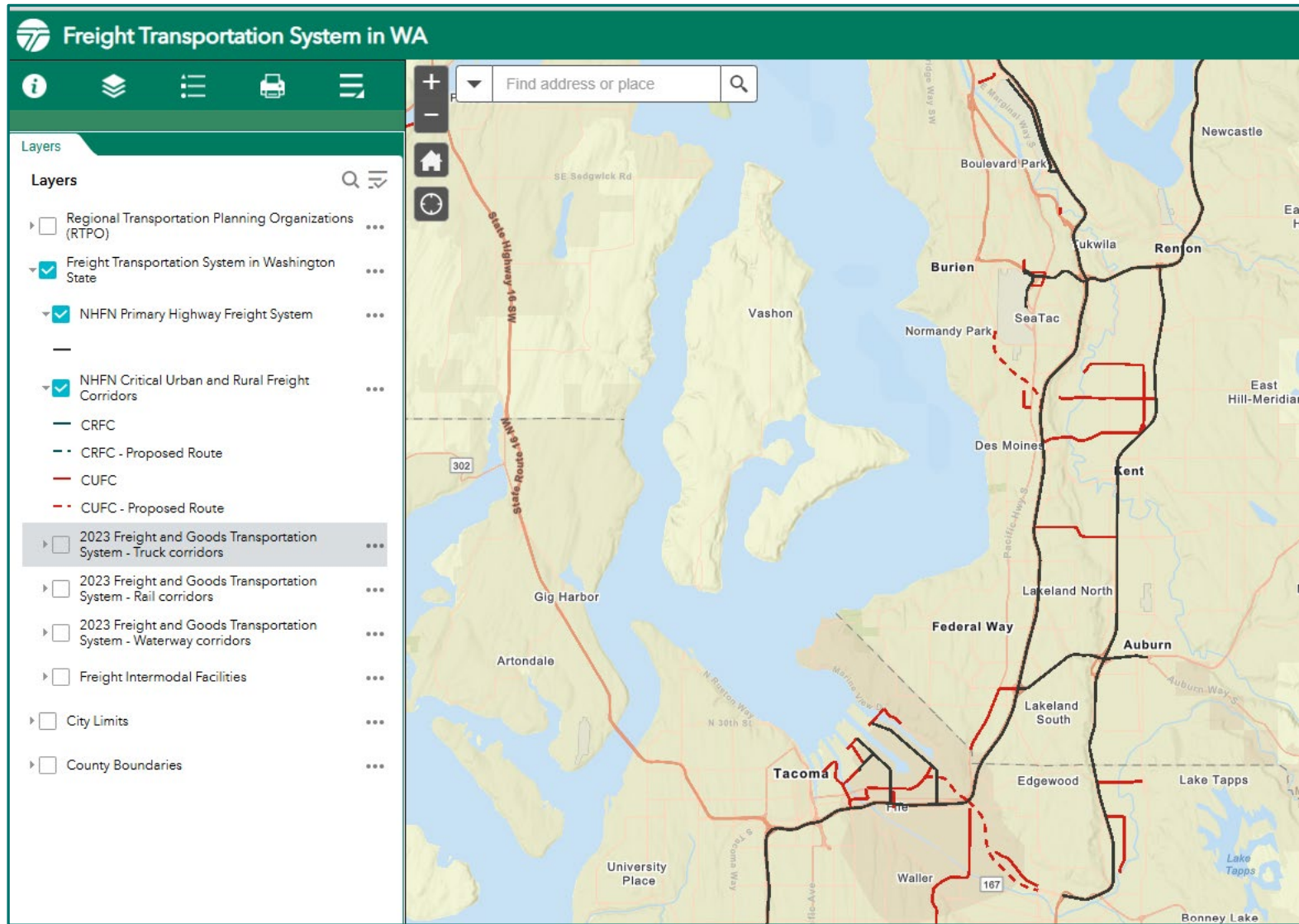
Evaluation Criteria	Questions
Improve the State of Good Repair of Freight Infrastructure	Does the project improve the state of good repair of freight infrastructure? If yes, please describe how this project will improve infrastructure condition.
Assessment of Existing Infrastructure Condition in Project Boundary	If yes to the above question, please report the condition of infrastructure within the project boundary and provide supporting documentation.

#### Goal 2: Safety

Evaluation Criteria	Questions
Prevent or Reduce Injuries or Fatalities	Does the project include elements intended to improve transportation safety? If yes, please describe this project's expected safety benefits.
Count of Serious Injury and Fatality Crashes within the Project Boundary	What is the count of serious injury and fatality crashes within the project boundary between 2020 and 2024? If the project is off the road network, please provide information about accident history or safety concerns within the project boundary.  Total count of serious injury and fatality crashes:   Total Count of serious injury and fatality crashes:
Reduce Conflict with Active Transportation Users	Is there a history of conflict between trucks and bicyclists/pedestrians from 2020-2024? If yes, please list the count of the truck-involved bicycle or pedestrian crashes within the project boundary between 2020 and 2024. Otherwise, write "0."   Are there pedestrian or bicycle facilities within the project boundary? If so, please provide a summary of the pedestrian and bicycle facilities present. If available, provide data on the level of bicycle or pedestrian traffic within the project boundary.  If no facilities are present but pedestrian and bicycle activity is still observed, provide information on pedestrian or bicyclist activity within the project boundary.   If yes for either of the two questions above (conflict between roadway users or presence of pedestrian/bicycle facilities), please describe how this project will reduce or mitigate potential



# Critical Urban / Rural Freight Corridor Designation



Updates to CUFC / CRFC designations may be needed to ensure NHFP funding can be authorized for the projects on the regional list



## Option 1 – typical FAC meeting schedule

4

# 2026 NHFP Process – January meeting option

## Option 2 – moving February FAC meeting to January

DRAFT NHFP -> Critical Corridors Schedule		2025							2026																								
December 10, 2025			December						January				February				March					April				May				June			
Task		wk of	11/24	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30	4/6	4/13	4/20	4/27	5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25	6/1	6/8	6/15	6/22
FAC meeting - discuss process, timing, eligibilty, application limits					12/10																												
sponsors submit basic project info to PSRC									1/9																								
Early FAC meeting - discuss project submittals + finalize list										1/14																							
sponsors complete project submission form															2/20																		
PSRC compiles and submits regional project package to WSDOT																2/27																	
WSDOT convenes NHFP project selection committee																																	
FAC meeting - discuss Critical Freight Corridor designations																						4/8											
WSDOT finalizes NHFP project list																																	
FAC meeting - finalize Critical Freight Corridor designations																															6/10		



# Questions for Discussion

- Would the committee prefer to shift the regular February meeting to January, to allow more time for sponsors to complete the WSDOT submittal forms?
- Does the committee support putting a limit on the number of projects each agency can submit?



# Next Steps

- 1) Sponsors identify projects for consideration and submit basic project information to PSRC
- 2) FAC meets to finalize projects from region in January
- 3) Once notified, sponsors complete WSDOT project submission forms and provide to PSRC

...then

- 4) Determine if any projects on regional list require Critical Corridor designations to be eligible for NHFP funds

