

2026 Washington State Freight System Plan

SEATTLE FREIGHT ADVISORY BOARD

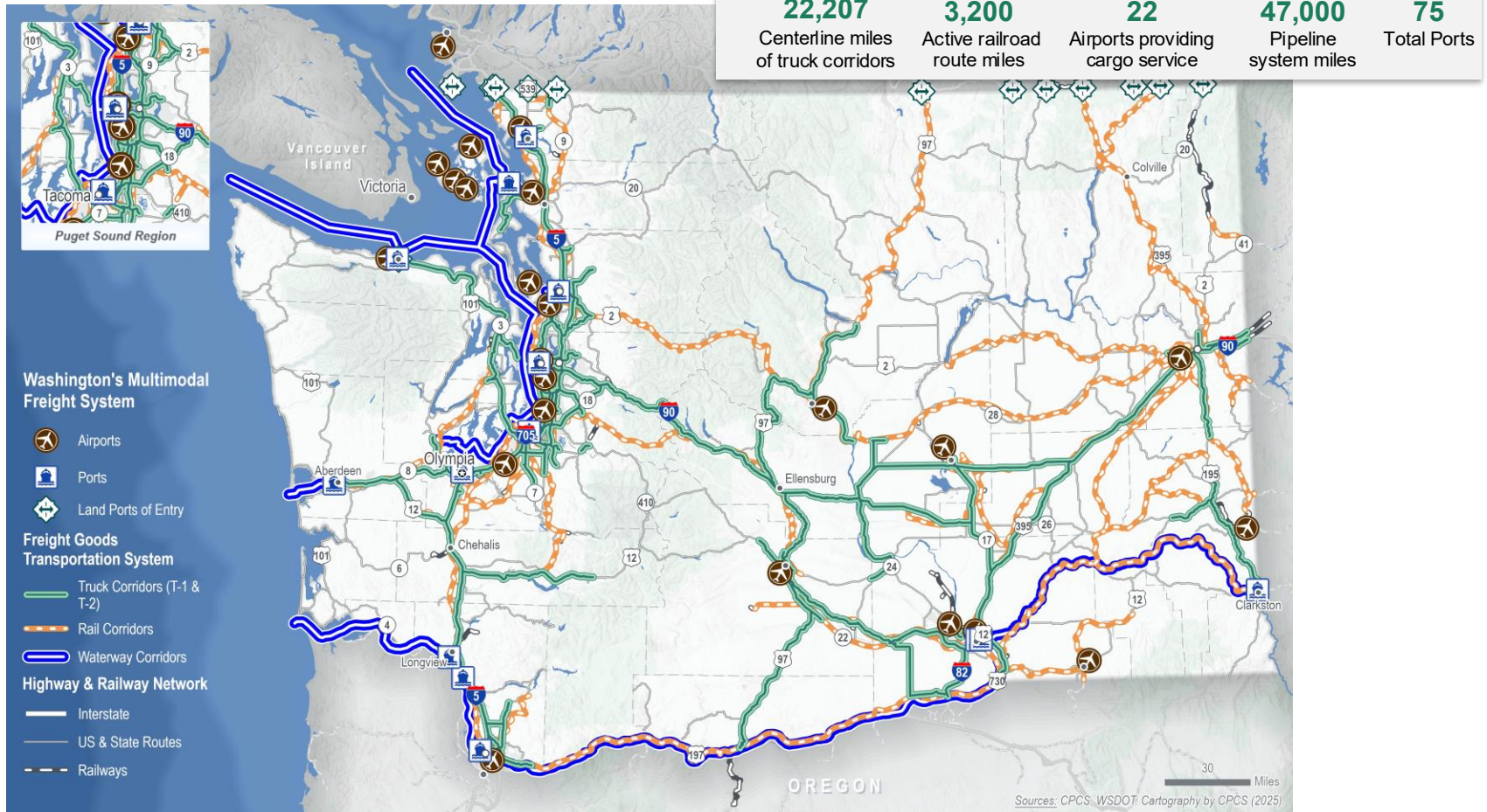
WSDOT Rail, Freight and Ports Division

Jason Beloso, Planning Program Manager

Scott McCollister, Freight Systems Planner

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What is the state freight system?



Washington's multimodal freight system consists of roads, railroads, ports and waterways, airports, and pipelines.

Why is freight important?

The efficient, safe, and reliable transportation of goods throughout Washington is essential to every aspect of economic and community vitality in the Pacific Northwest.



The state's multimodal freight system handles an incredible amount of goods.

613 million tons

Estimated cargo moved to, from, and throughout the state

\$723 billion

Estimated value of these cargo movements

Source: BTS FAF, 2023

Washington's freight-dependent industries drive the economy.

\$196.7 billion

Washington GDP generated by freight-dependent industries

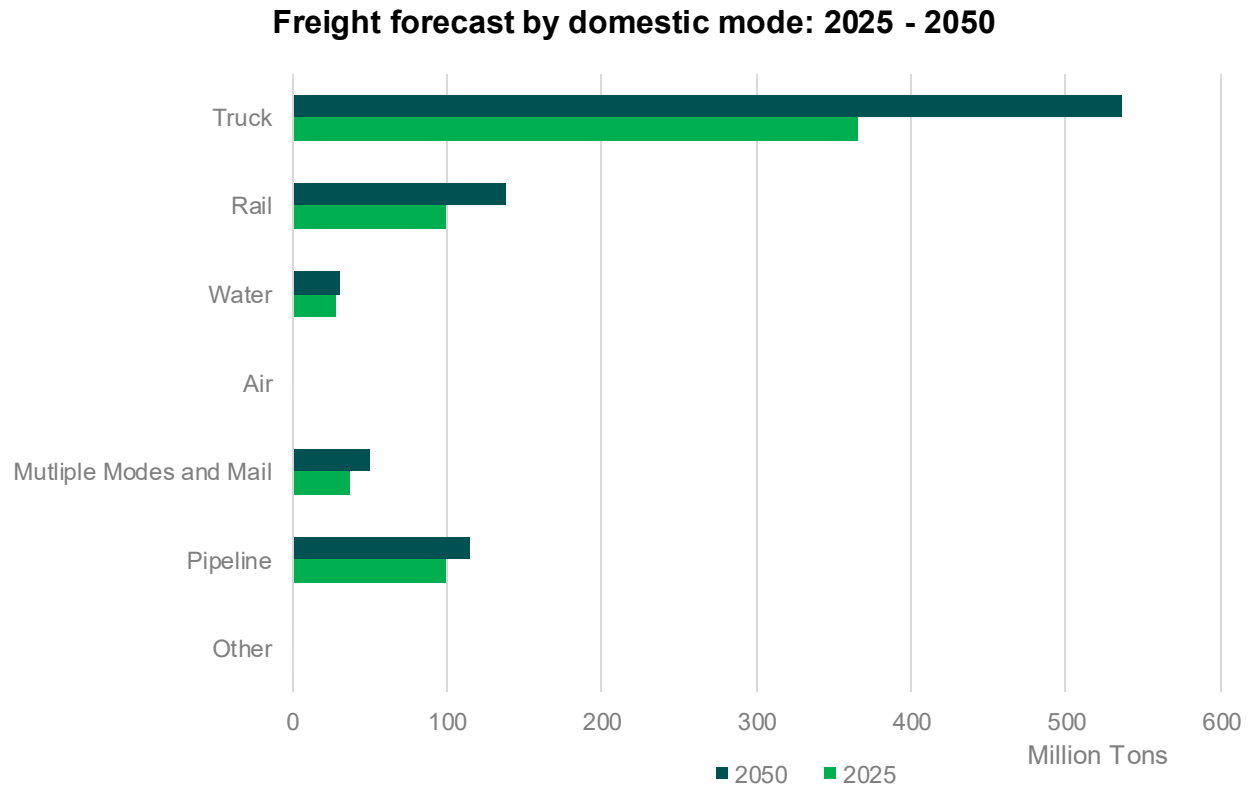
35.2%

1.26 million Washington workers employed by freight-dependent industries

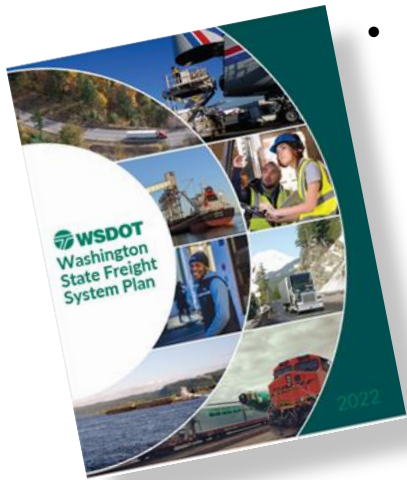
Source: BEA SAGDP9, 2024

Growing freight demand

- State population and economic growth will be accompanied by increasing freight volume
- Total freight volume is expected to increase by 45% between 2022-2050
- Future growth will likely exacerbate many of the current freight challenges



2026 Freight System Plan



- A plan to support and improve the freight system in Washington
 - Describes how the freight transportation system serves the economy and communities
 - Defines freight system trends, issues, and needs and identifies potential solutions
 - Informs freight transportation policy and investment decisions
- Supports the state's six transportation policy goals
- Fulfills states' freight plan requirements under RCW
- Must include a Freight Investment Plan (FIP) identifying priority projects for NHFP funds
- Certified by FHWA as satisfying federal freight planning requirements

2026 Plan emphasis areas:

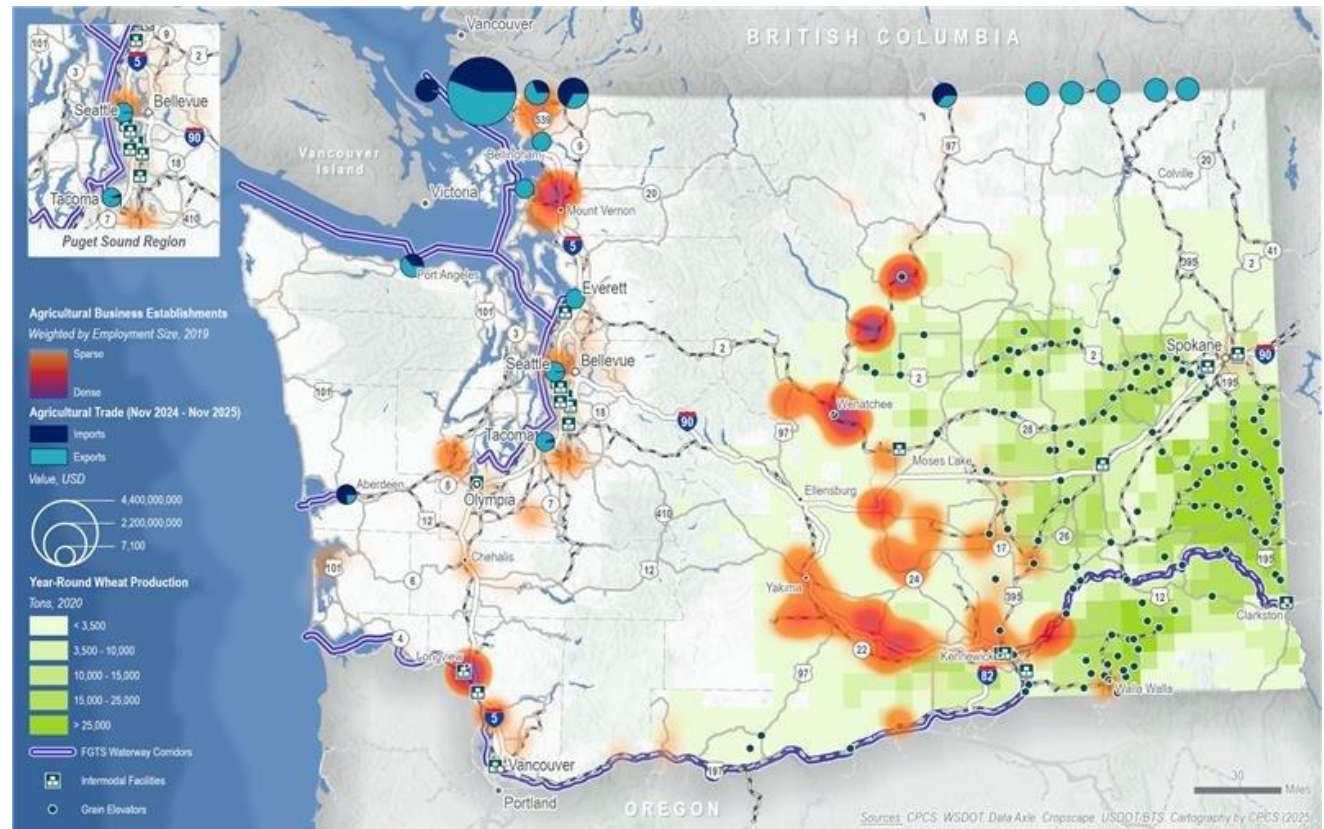
- Supply chain lens (commodity corridors and multimodal connectivity)
- Freight system resiliency
- Economic competitiveness
- Community impacts of freight movement

A supply chain focused plan

Freight supply chain: full sequence of activities, infrastructure, and flows that move goods from origin to final customer, including production, processing, storage, transportation, and distribution.

WSDOT's supply chain focused freight plan:

- Takes an end-to-end view of how goods move across modes, gateways, and corridors
- Pinpoints critical supply chain nodes with the greatest impact e.g., delays, cost, operational efficiency
- Links freight flows to key industries, jobs, and regional/global economies
- Identifies multimodal performance, access, and reliability gaps
- Assesses resilience to disruptions and climate risks



National Highway Freight Program overview

Approximately \$11 million available per year statewide for local projects in FFYs 2027-2032

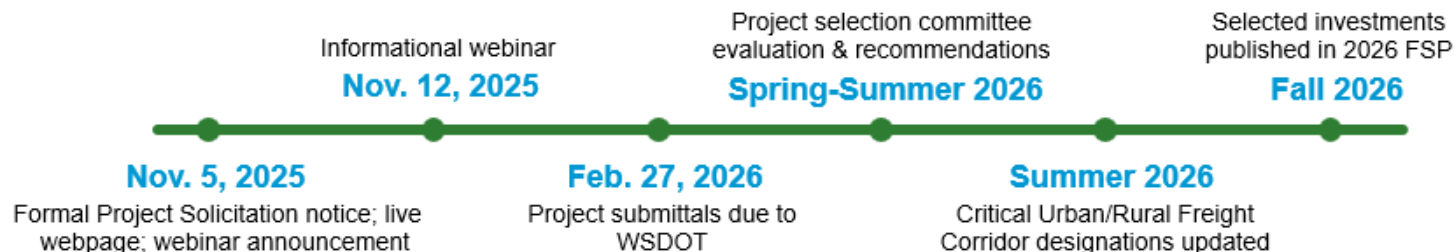
Current funding authorized through IIJA (expires Sept. 30, 2026). Future funding (FFYs 2027–32) is subject to congressional reauthorization and state appropriations.

Eligible Projects

- Preliminary engineering & right-of-way acquisition
- Construction, rehabilitation, and modernization
- Operational improvements
- Freight rail & intermodal projects

NHFP purpose & use

- Established under the FAST Act, continued under IIJA
- Provides federal funds to improve freight efficiency on the National Highway Freight Network
- Six-year, federal-aid highway formula fund



Community engagement

- 30+ stakeholder interviews
- Overburdened communities/equity listening session
- Tribal listening session
- NHFP Webinar for MPO/RTPOs, cities, counties, ports and tribes
- Online open house & survey
- Social media posts



Help shape Washington's freight system

The Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) invites you to provide feedback that will help inform the 2026 Washington Freight System Plan (FSP) update.

The FSP outlines a vision for Washington's freight system and examines all modes of freight transportation including trucks, airplanes, rail, barges, and cargo ships.

Do you have feedback on how freight and goods move through your community?

Are you part of Washington's multimodal freight system?

Are you involved in regional planning that affects freight movement?

Your input is vital whether you represent a public agency, a community organization, a port, railroad, airport, logistics provider, or industry group.

WSDOT has launched the **2026 FSP Online Open House** for you to provide input on freight and goods movement and share your priorities, needs, challenges, and location-specific insights.

Your input will guide freight transportation policies, programs, and investments as part of the 2026 FSP update.

How to share input

Visit the **2026 FSP Online Open House** to complete a short survey and use an interactive map to provide detailed geographic feedback.

To access the website, click the link below or scan the QR code at right.

www.tinyurl.com/engage-FSP



Share input by 5 p.m. on March 31, 2026



2026 FSP Online Open House Overview

- The website includes a survey tailored to three audiences: community groups; freight system operators and industry partners; and freight planners and practitioners.
- Survey is designed to take less than 10 minutes to fill out.
- Website includes an interactive map for location-specific feedback.

Need Help or Have a Question?

Contact us at:

FreightPlan@wsdot.wa.gov

Community engagement – preliminary survey feedback



Freight system users

Top 3 priorities for freight operations:

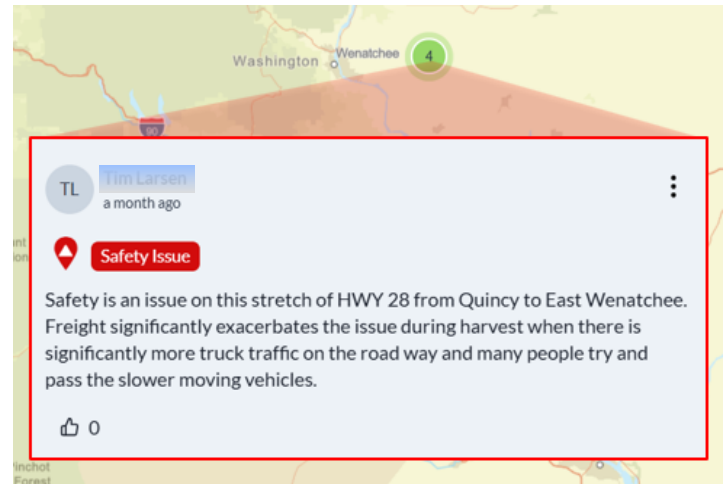
- Preserving and upgrading freight-critical infrastructure
- Ensuring reliable access to industrial areas, warehouses and distribution centers
- Reducing congestion, bottlenecks and chokepoints that impact freight delivery



MPO/RTPO, cities, counties, ports

Top 3 freight-related priorities:

- Preserve and maintain or expand freight-critical infrastructure
- Identify or enhance funding for infrastructure improvements
- Reduce congestion and improve mobility/reliability on key corridors



Example: Input from interactive map

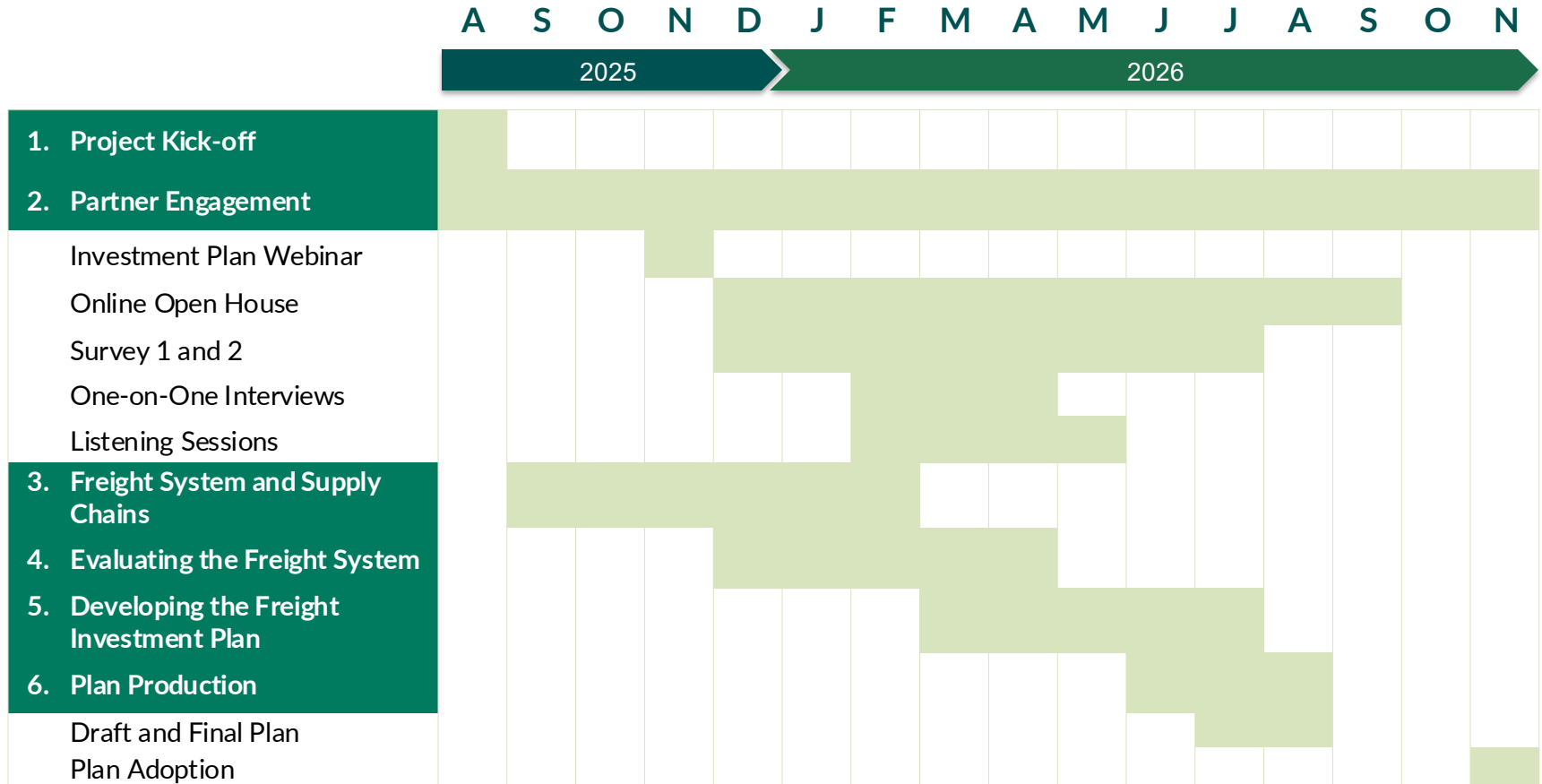


Community members and groups

Top 3 challenges from freight movement:

- Traffic congestion and delays
- Safety concerns
- Noise

2026 Freight System Plan schedule



🌐 Additional resources
can be found on the
WSDOT Freight System
Plan webpage:

tinyurl.com/WSDOT-FSP



✉ Contact information

Jason Beloso

Jason.Beloso@wsdot.wa.gov

Scott McCollister

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