

EXHIBIT H

An Overview of the I-405 EIS Program

What is the I-405 Corridor EIS Program?

The I-405 Corridor EIS Program is a WSDOT-sponsored, community-based partnership to create a package of integrated, multi-modal transportation improvements that will address future needs in the I-405 Corridor. The Program is built on the premises of accountability and action. It includes an active public involvement program and a thorough environmental review process, and builds on the work of Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Trans-Lake, Mobility Action Priorities, Sound Transit and other regional initiatives. The final package of transportation improvements developed through the I-405 Corridor Program will be proposed for implementation into local, regional, state, and federal transportation plans and programs.

When it finally takes shape, the I-405 Corridor Program will be the blueprint for a system that will be funded at the federal, state, county, and local levels. While some elements can be implemented fairly quickly, many of the projects will take years before they can be fully implemented. "The partnership established to build a common vision for I-405 must be continued if the vision is to become reality," said George Kargianis, chair of the I-405 Executive Committee. "Public involvement and public support are keys to our success."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee will provide vision, policy, and oversight in the development of the I-405 Corridor Program. Committee membership will include community and agency leaders representing local and County government, Puget Sound Regional Council, Washington State Transportation Commission, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Sound Transit, State Legislature and other members as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee. The Committee will interact with and receive input and recommendations from a Citizen's Committee, Steering Committee, and Project Management Team.

Roles and Responsibilities

In carrying out their assigned duties, the Executive Committee members will:

- attend or be represented at all Committee meetings,
- approve the study approach, including organization, decision process, public involvement plan, environmental and technical work,
- identify issues vital to the project,
- provide strategic recommendations to the project team,
- assure opportunities for public, business, and civic group involvement,
- appoint a Citizen's Committee,
- support the budget and schedule objectives of the program,
- represent and report on program activities to other groups and organizations,

- represent the governments and agencies they belong to and assist in building a regional consensus on and recommend a specific strategy for dealing with the mobility interests in the I-405 corridor,
- help resolve conflicts between governments and agencies,
- present recommendations to the Washington Transportation Commission and Puget Sound Regional Council for adoption into State and Regional Transportation Plans, and other appropriate agencies for adoption into regional and local plans, and
- support implementation of the adopted strategy.

The Committee will be expected to evaluate tradeoffs between technical feasibility, environmental acceptability, costs, performance, and political acceptability in making recommendations.

Organization

The Executive Committee's organizational format will allow discussion of issues and options, and will document conclusions. A Chair will be selected to facilitate the process and conduct the regularly scheduled meetings, with a Vice-chair elected by the committee to serve in the Chair's absence. If possible, the Committee will be expected to produce consensus conclusions. Summary positions may be described in committee reports, with differences in opinion among members clearly noted and explained. The Committee has the option of communicating consensus positions when determined by members to be appropriate.

A Steering Committee and the WSDOT will support the Executive Committee. WSDOT staff and Consultants will produce agendas, meeting summaries, reports, and other materials.

The Executive Committee will meet over an 18 month period beginning in July, 1999. Meetings will be held on a schedule adopted by the Executive Committee

STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Steering Committee, composed of senior staff from the local, regional, state and federal agencies having jurisdiction within the Study Area and others as determined appropriate by this group. The Steering Committee is responsible for providing technical and policy guidance to the Program. The Steering Committee will make recommendations to the Executive Committee and seek their strategic counsel. Issues that cannot be resolved by the Steering Committee will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for resolution. The Steering Committee will hold joint meetings as needed with the Citizen's Committee in order to encourage coordination.

The Committee will be expected to evaluate technical feasibility, environmental acceptability, costs, performance, and political acceptability in making recommendations.

Roles and Responsibilities

In carrying out their assigned duties, the Steering Committee members will:

- attend or be represented at all Committee meetings;
- identify issues vital to the interests represented on the committee;
- support the Purpose and Need Statement adopted for the program;
- brief Executive Committee members to support timely and accurate decisions;

- provide timely review of the information provided by the Project Management Team; · provide recommendations to the Executive Committee on:
 - Purpose and Need Statement for the program;
 - Evaluation Criteria; Alternatives to be considered;
 - Evaluation of the alternatives;
 - Completeness of the draft EIS, and;
 - Recommendation;
 - Final EIS;
- resource agencies will work with the balance of the Steering Committee and their organizations to gain timely approval at identified "Concurrence Points" in the program;
- represent and report on program activities to their agencies and assist in building a regional consensus on and recommend a specific strategy for dealing with the mobility in the I-405 Corridor and;
- support the budget and schedule objectives of the program.

The Steering Committee will meet generally monthly over an 18 month period beginning in July, 1999. Meeting date, location and time for the meetings will be determined by the Steering Committee

CITIZEN COMMITTEE:

The Citizen Committee will be primarily responsible for providing advisory input to the Executive Committee at key points during the development and evaluation of corridor alternatives. The Executive Committee will give considerable weight to the recommendations provided by the Citizen Committee. The Executive Committee will frame the issues and questions for consideration by the Citizen Committee throughout its tenure.

Committee membership will include community participants representing a wide range of interests and perspectives relating to the I-405 corridor. The Committee will interact with and provide input to the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee through joint meetings and other communication methods.

Roles and Responsibilities

In carrying out their assigned duties, the Citizen Committee members will:

- attend or be represented at all Committee meetings,
- identify issues vital to the interests represented on the committee,
- provide recommendations to the Executive Committee relating to corridor alternatives development and evaluation,
- support the purpose and need adopted for the program,
- represent and report on program activities to constituent groups and organizations,

- represent the group(s) they belong to and assist in building a regional consensus on and recommend a specific strategy for dealing with the mobility interest in the I-405 corridor,

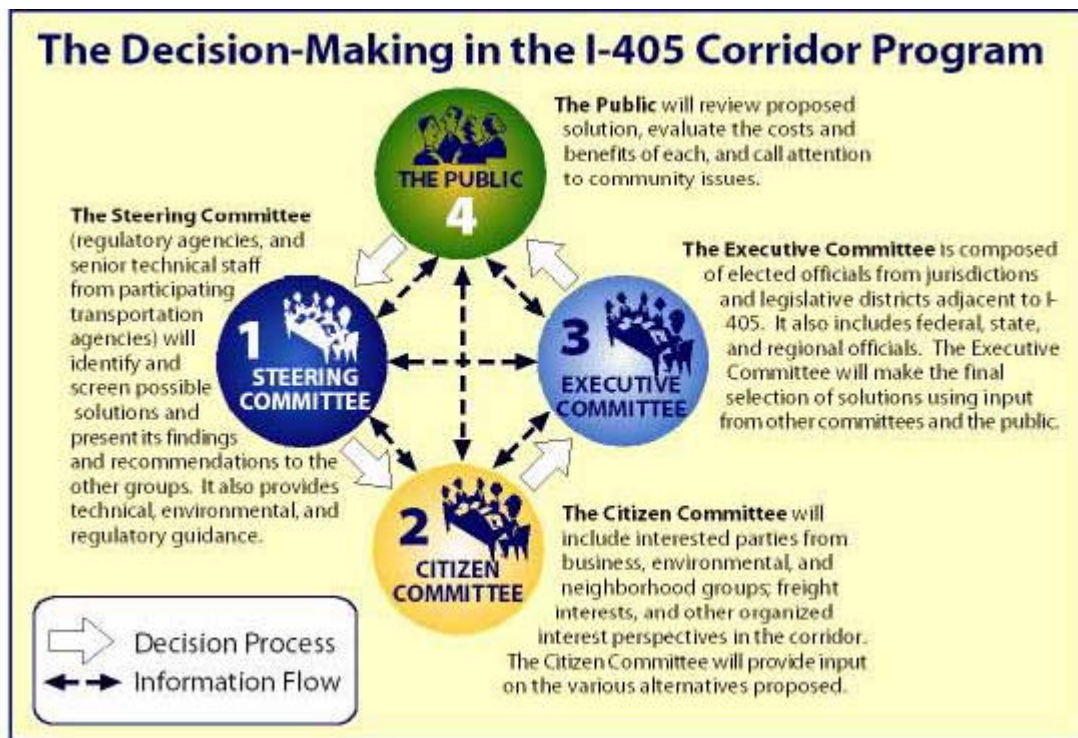
The Committee will be expected to balance the specific interests of their constituency with a broad understanding of travel needs within the corridor in making recommendations.

Organization

The Citizen Committee organizational format will allow discussion of issues and options, and will document conclusions. A Chair may be selected to facilitate the process and conduct the regularly scheduled meetings, with a Vice-chair will be elected by the committee to serve in the Chair’s absence. As needed, an outside facilitator will be available to facilitate committee discussions of specific agenda topics, in order to allow the chair to be an active participant in the discussion.

If possible, the Committee will be expected to produce consensus conclusions. Summary positions may be described in committee reports, with differences in opinion among members clearly noted and explained. The Committee has the option of communicating consensus positions when determined by members to be appropriate.

The Citizen Committee will meet over a 12-month period beginning in October 1999. Up to 5 meetings are anticipated at key points during the development and evaluation of alternatives. Meetings will be held on a schedule adopted by the Executive Committee.



WEBSITE: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/I-405/overview/projectcommittees.cfm>