Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Clark County

Updated: December 2007
Amended: July 2008

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council

CHAPTER 3

IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

INVENTORY OF THE EXISTING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

As an introduction to planning for the future development of a regional transportation system, an inventory of the existing system is provided. Also, a brief description of the context for regional transportation planning, with regard to meeting federal requirements and designation of federal transportation area boundaries is described.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION BOUNDARIES

The federal Transportation Act requires that an **Urban Area Boundary** (UAB) is defined to delineate areas that are urban in nature distinct from those that are largely rural in nature. The federal transportation Urban Area Boundary is not to be confused with the Urban Growth Areas established under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), as described in Chapter 2. The federal UAB should cover, at a minimum, the area designated by the decennial U.S. Census as "urbanized" by meeting certain population and density criteria. Following the 2000 Census, the Vancouver urbanized area encompasses Vancouver as well as urbanized areas of unincorporated Clark County, Camas, Washougal and Battle Ground. Also, following the 2000 census, the Hockinson Census Designated Place was defined as an Urban Place as its population was over 5,000. (Refer to Figure 3-1; *Transportation Boundaries*).

ISTEA also called for MPO's to establish a **Metropolitan Area Boundary** which marks the area to be covered by MPO regional transportation planning activities and which, at a minimum, has to include the urban area, the contiguous area expected to be urbanized within the next twenty years, and in air quality attainment areas must include the area enclosed by the **attainment area boundary** which in the Clark County region is the Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area[1]. The Metropolitan Area Boundary established for the Clark County region includes the whole of Clark county (refer to Figure 3-1; *Transportation Boundaries*).

With a population of over 200,000 the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area is designated as a **Transportation Management Area** (TMA) by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Within TMAs, the MPO must develop a congestion management system which was first adopted by the RTC Board in May 1995 (RTC Board Resolution 05-95-14) and a report on congestion management within the region has been updated by RTC annually. The MPO has authority to select, in consultation with the state, projects to receive federal funds (see Chapter 4 for further details).

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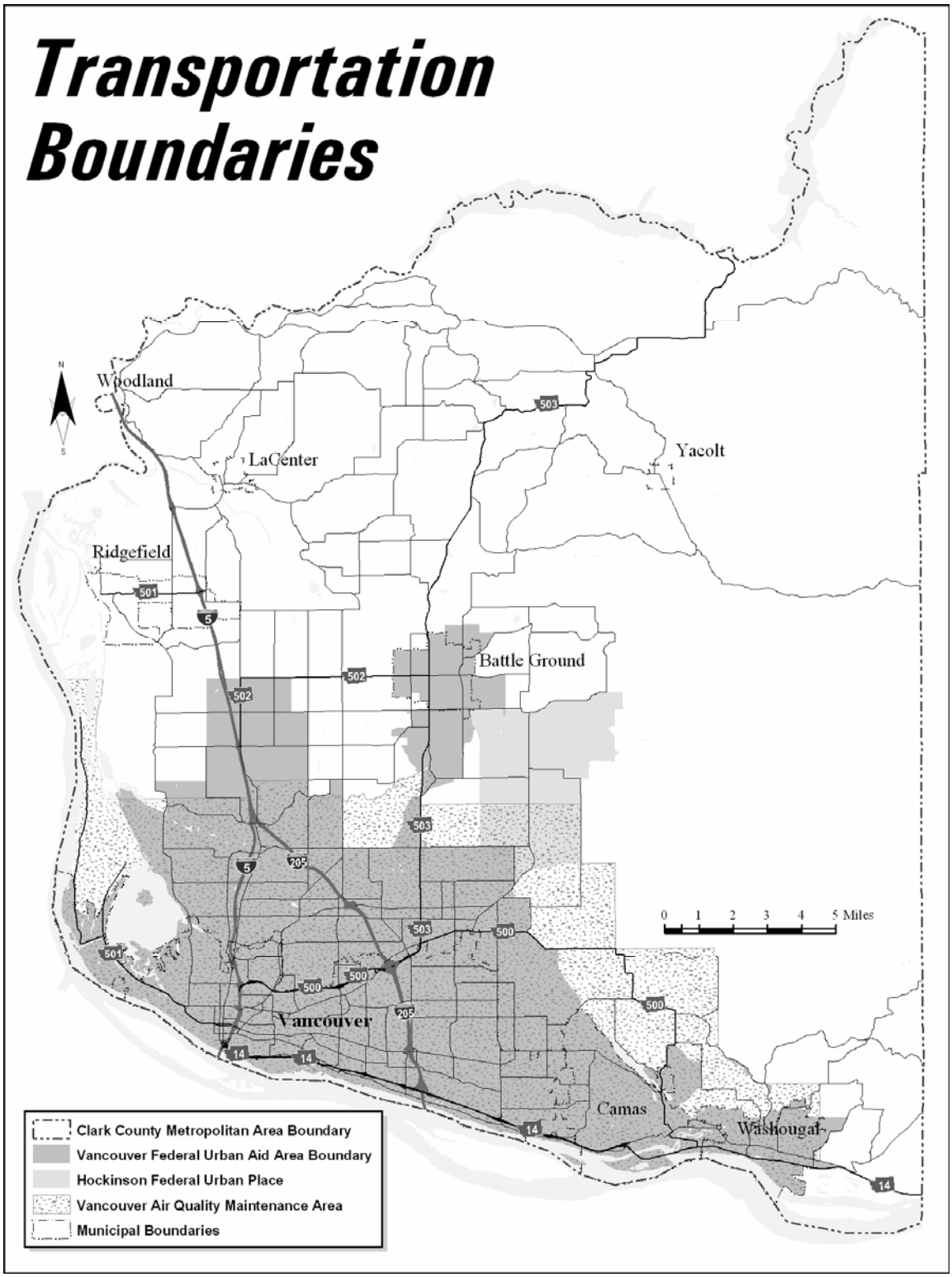
[1] Although classified in the early 1990's by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a moderate non-attainment area for carbon monoxide and a marginal non-attainment area for ozone, the Vancouver area has since attained unclassifiable/attainment status for the ozone pollutant and limited maintenance status for carbon monoxide. Air quality has implications for regional transportation planning as the region strives to maintain national ambient air quality standards.

Figure 3-1: Transportation Boundaries



FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Arterials are categorized into a functional classification system; the classifying of highways, roads and streets into groups having similar characteristics for providing mobility and/or land access. Interstate freeways, classified as divided principal arterials, are designed to provide for the highest degree of mobility of large volumes of long-distance traffic, they are not designed to provide for access to land uses. Collector facilities generally provide equal emphasis upon mobility and land use accessibility. Local facilities emphasize access to land uses.

The Federal Functional Classification system for Clark County usually undergoes a comprehensive update at least once every decade following the results of the decennial census and accompanying changes made to the federally recognized Urbanized Area and to the Urban Area Boundary (UAB) for the region. Details of the process for changing the UAB and federal functional classification system are described on Washington State Depart of Transportation's web site at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/tdo/functionalclass.htm.

The map of Clark County's current federal classification system is at WSDOT's website at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/tdo/FunctionalClassMaps/PDF/FCclarkPLOT.pdf

The map of the Vancouver UGA's current federal classification system is at WSDOT's website at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/mapsdata/tdo/FunctionalClassMaps/PDF/FCvancouverUA.pdf

Revisions to the functional classification system for the Clark County region were approved by the Federal Highway Administration in December 2003. A review of the federal functional classification system for the Clark County region will be made in 2008 to ensure as close consistency as possible to local classification systems that are part of local comprehensive growth management plans. Clark County maintains a local classification system as part of its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. This classification system is reported in the Clark County Arterial Atlas, approved by the Board of County Commissioners, and shows arterial and local street cross-sections anticipated for roads in Clark County within the next twenty years.

As a pre-requisite for review of the federal functional classification system, the Urban Area Boundary must be defined (refer to Figure 3-1; *Transportation Boundaries*). Facilities classified as collector or above in urban areas are eligible for federal funding while in the rural area those facilities classified as major collector and above are eligible. Generally, minor collectors in rural areas are not eligible for federal funding. A description of the urban functional classification categories follows:

PRINCIPAL ARTERIALS

Principal arterials permit traffic flow through the urban area and between major elements of the urban area. They are of great importance in the regional transportation system as they interconnect major traffic generators, such as the central business district and regional shopping centers, to other major activity centers and carry a high proportion of the total urban area travel on a minimum of roadway mileage. They also carry traffic between communities. Frequently principal arterials carry important intra-urban as well as intercity bus routes.

Many principal arterials are fully or partially controlled access facilities emphasizing the through movement of traffic. Within the category are (1) interstates (2) other freeways and expressways and (3) other principal arterials.

Spacing of principal arterials may vary from less than one mile in highly developed central business areas to five miles or more in the sparsely developed urban fringes.

MINOR ARTERIALS

Minor arterials collect and distribute traffic from principal arterials to lesser classified streets, or allow for traffic to directly access their destinations. They serve secondary traffic generators such as community business centers, neighborhood shopping centers, multiple residence areas, and traffic from neighborhood to neighborhood within a community. Access to land use activities is generally permitted. Such facilities are usually spaced under two miles apart and in core areas can be spaced at 1/8 to 1/2 mile apart.

COLLECTORS

Collectors provide for land access and traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas. They distribute traffic movements from such areas to the arterial system. Collectors do not handle long through trips and are not continuous for any great length.

LOCAL STREETS

Local streets provide direct access to abutting land and access to the higher classification facilities. They offer the lowest level of mobility and usually contain no bus routes. They are not intended to carry through traffic but make up a large percentage of the total street mileage.

Rural roads consist of those facilities that are outside of urban areas. They too are categorized into functional classifications:

RURAL PRINCIPAL ARTERIALS

Rural principal arterials are sub-divided into two sets (1) interstate facilities and (2) other principal arterials. They consist of a connected rural network of continuous routes and provide an integrated network without stub connections.

RURAL MINOR ARTERIALS

In conjunction with the principal arterials, the rural minor arterials form a rural network which link cities and larger towns together with other major traffic generators. The principal arterials and rural minor arterials are spaced at such intervals that all developed areas of the state are within a reasonable distance of an arterial highway. Minor arterials should be expected to provide for relatively high overall travel speeds with minimum interference to through movement.

The other rural road classifications are:

Rural Major Collector Roads (are eligible for federal funding)

Rural Minor Collector Roads (are not eligible for federal funding) and

Rural Local Roads

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM (NHS)

ISTEA also required that roads be designated as National Highway System (NHS) facilities. Congress approved the NHS System with passage of the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act). In Clark County the roads listed in Table 3-1 have been designated as NHS facilities.

Table 3-1: Designated NHS Facilities; Clark County

DESIGNATED NHS FACILITIES - Clark County	
Facility	**Extent**
I-5	Oregon State Line to Clark County line (north)
I-205	Oregon State Line to I-5 Interchange
SR-14	I-5 to Clark County line (east)
SR-500	I-5 to SR-503/Fourth Plain intersection
SR-501	I-5 to Port of Vancouver access
SR-502	I-5 to SR-503 intersection
SR-503	SR-500/Fourth Plain intersection to SR-502 intersection

HIGHWAYS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE (HSS)

In 1999 the state legislature adopted Highways of Statewide Significance, fulfilling a requirement of House Bill 1487 passed in 1998. In Clark County highway facilities defined as "of Statewide Significance" are I-5, I-205, SR-14 and part of SR-501 to access the Port of Vancouver.

DESIGNATION OF THE RTP REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Consistent with the state's Regional Transportation Planning Program Planning Standards, the designated MTP regional transportation system (see Figures 3-2a and 3-2b) includes:

1. All state transportation facilities and services (including highways, state-owned park-and-ride lots etc.).

2. All local freeways, expressways, and principal arterials (the definition of principal arterials can be the same as used for federal classification or be regionally determined).

3. All high-capacity transit systems (any express-oriented transit service operating on an exclusive right-of-way including high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes).

4. All other transportation facilities and services, including airports, transit services and facilities, roadways, rail facilities, marine transportation facilities etc. that the RTPO considers necessary to complete the regional plan.

5. Any transportation facility or service that regional need or impact places in the plan, as determined by the RTPO.

It is the designated regional transportation system that is the focus for transportation planning in the MTP.

A detailed description of the designated MTP Regional Transportation System follows:

1. **All state transportation facilities and services** (including state highways, state owned park and ride lots etc.)

In Clark County this category includes Interstate facilities I-5 and I-205. Clark County has a 20.78 mile section of **I-5**, the major interstate freeway serving the west coast of the U.S.A.. I-5 provides for north-south travel and is used for interstate travel from southern California, through the state of Oregon northward through Washington State to the Canadian border. I-5 crosses the Columbia River from Oregon to Washington over the Interstate Bridge. The I-5 Columbia River Crossing Project's Locally Preferred Alternative includes a future replacement I-5 Interstate Bridge. I-5 has three through lanes in each direction from the Interstate Bridge north to the 134th Street off-ramp. North of the I-5/I-205 interchange there are three travel lanes in each direction.

A 10.07 mile stretch of **I-205** traverses Clark County until it joins I-5 just north of N.E. 134th Street. I-205 was constructed as an alternative route to I-5, as a by-pass facility through the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. I-205 crosses the Columbia River over the Glenn Jackson Bridge that was opened in 1982. The Glenn Jackson Bridge has four travel lanes in each direction. North of the bridge the facility has three lanes in each direction to a point just north of the interchange with SR-500. I-205 continues as a two lane in each direction facility until it joins I-5, just north of 134th Street.

State routes in Clark County include SR-14, SR-500, SR-501, SR-502 and SR-503.

Figure 3-2a: Designated Regional Transportation System

Figure 3-2b: Designated Regional Transportation System, Showing Downtown Vancouver Detail

SR-14 provides the main east-west access from the southwest of Washington state to the southeast of the state along the north bank of the Columbia River. The facility extends 21.77 miles through Clark County to the Skamania County line with two lanes in each direction up to milepost 12 and one lane in each direction thereafter.

SR-500 is a 20.37-mile facility entirely within Clark County and allows for east-west cross-county travel. It crosses I-205, provides access to the Orchards area, then traverses rural Clark County until it reaches the Camas urban area. SR-500 intersects with SR-14 in Camas. The facility carries traffic to and from the Clark County regional shopping mall. The segment of SR-500 between I-5 and I-205 was first opened as a limited access facility in 1984.

SR-501 is comprised of two unconnected segments. The south segment extends from the interchange with I-5 westward with three lanes in each direction along the Mill Plain/15th Street couplet to Columbia Street. West of Columbia the facility is two lanes in each direction. This segment of SR-501 carries traffic to and from the Port of Vancouver. The facility reduces to two lanes, one in each direction, and branches into two in the Vancouver Lake lowlands area with both branches terminating in the lowlands. The northern segment of SR-501 extends as a two-lane facility from I-5 westward to the City of Ridgefield where it terminates. Originally it was intended that the two segments be joined to complete a circumferential route around the westside of the Vancouver urban area and to carry traffic to and from the lowlands industrial area. However, the facility was never completed.

SR-502 extends from the I-5/N.E. 179th Street interchange northward to N.E. 219th Street where it turns eastbound toward Battle Ground. An interchange of I-5 and 219th Street is currently under construction in 2007.

SR-503 extends northward from its intersection with SR-500. It carries traffic between the Vancouver urban area and North County through Battle Ground. SR-503 extends into Cowlitz County.

Table 3-2: State Route Mileage in Clark County

STATE ROUTE MILEAGE IN CLARK COUNTY					
Facility	**Beginning Mile Post**	**Begins at: (Description)**	**Ending Mile Post**	**Ends at: (Description)**	**Route Mileage**
I-5	0	Oregon State Line on Interstate Bridge	20.78	Cowlitz Co. Line	20.78
I-205	0	Oregon State Line on Glenn Jackson Bridge	10.57	Interchange with SR-5	10.57
SR-14	0	Interchange with SR-5, Vancouver	21.77	Skamania Co. Line	21.77
SR-500	0	Interchange with SR-5	20.37	Intersection with SR-14, Camas	20.37
SR-501 S. Section	0	Interchange with SR-5	12.72	Terminus of south segment	12.72
SR-501 Couplet	0.61	Interchange with SR-5	1.16	Franklin Street City of Vancouver	0.55
SR-501 N. Section	16.91	City of Ridgefield	19.88	Interchange with I-5/ N.E. 269th St.	2.97
SR-502	0	Intersection with SR-5, at N.E. 179th St.	7.56	Intersection with SR-503	7.56
SR-503	0	Intersection with SR-500	27.87	Cowlitz Co. line	27.87

2. **All local freeways, expressways, and principal arterials**

Local expressways and principal arterials are also designated as part of the regional transportation system. Principal arterials, such as Mill Plain, Fourth Plain, N.E. 78th Street, Padden Parkway, N.E. 112th Avenue, SE/NE164th/162nd Avenue and segments of St. John's and Andresen are included. Future planned arterials on the regional system, such as an extension of NE 18th Street extension west from NE 102nd Avenue to NE 87th Avenue, are marked on Figure 3-2 by a dashed red line.

3. **All high-capacity transit systems** (any express-oriented transit service operating on an exclusive right-of-way including high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes).

The I-5 Columbia River Crossing Project's Locally Preferred Alternative is included which has Light Rail Transit extending into Clark County with a terminus in the vicinity of Clark College. The High Capacity Transit System Study is currently underway in 2007/08. The HCT System Study will define future HCT corridors in the Clark County region. See the MTP's Strategic Plan in Appendix B for further information on planning for HCT in the Clark County region.

4. **All other transportation facilities and services considered necessary to complete the regional transportation plan**. These include transit services and facilities, roadways, rail facilities, airports, marine transportation facilities etc.

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Authority (C-TRAN) provides public transit service in Clark County. All C-TRAN's system and facilities are included as part of the designated regional transportation system. C-TRAN's service and taxing boundary, effective June 1, 2005, includes the City of Vancouver and its urban growth boundary, and the city limits only of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, and the Town of Yacolt.

C-TRAN operates a FIXED ROUTE BUS SYSTEM on urban and suburban routes as well as premium commuter bus service to Portland, Oregon. C-TRAN also provides general purpose dial-a-ride service and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant paratransit service. Figure 3-2 maps C-TRAN's fixed route system. Table 3-3 summarizes the fixed-route bus system. C-TRAN operates 17 local urban routes, 4 limited routes, 7 express commuter routes, and 5 innovative transit/dial-a-ride services. Operating hours are generally 5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays (key urban routes operate until midnight), 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays/Holidays.

In November 2007, C-TRAN will implement a major service redesign, extending the span of service on key urban routes, improving local route connections, adding service to new destinations, and opening the 99th Street Transit Center at Stockford Village. Additionally, service in downtown Vancouver will be changed as the 7th Street Transit Center is decommissioned. Extensive public outreach and passenger assistance will support the implementation of these changes.

C-TRAN provides express commuter service directly from park and ride lots to destinations in downtown Portland. In addition, route #105 provides a midday and evening connection between downtown Portland and transit centers along the I-5 corridor, including a stop in downtown Vancouver. In the I-205 corridor, route #65 provides a midday connection to Portland at the Parkrose Transit Center. Limited routes provide a lower cost commute connections to MAX light rails stations at Delta Park/Vanport (I-5corridor) and Parkrose (I-205 corridor) in Portland.

Figure 3-2 (map of 2030 Regional Transportation System) maps C-TRAN's fixed route system. Table 3-3 summarizes C-TRAN's fixed route bus system.

Table 3-3: C-TRAN Fixed Route System (November 18, 2007)

Bus Route	Route Name	Weekday Service First Run Begins	Weekday Service Last Run Begins	Weekday Service Frequency (Peak)	Area Served (TC=Transit Center, P&R=Park & Ride)
2	Lincoln	5:30 am	8:50 pm	40 min.	Downtown Vancouver to 99th Street TC via northwest neighborhoods
3	City Center	5:21 am	9:11 pm	20 min.	Downtown loop around city center area: courthouse, clinics, shopping, and schools
4	Fourth Plain	4:42 am	12:00 am	15 min.	Downtown Vancouver to Vancouver Mall TC via Fourth Plain
7	Battle Ground	6:00 am	8:50 pm	45 min.	Vancouver mall TC to Battle Ground
9	Felida/Salmon Creek	6:00 am	9:00 pm	30 min.	99th Street TC to Felida, WSU Vancouver campus, hospital, and Hazel Dell
25	Fruit Valley	6:00 am	9:10 pm	30 min.	Downtown Vancouver to west Vancouver
25	St. Johns	5:30 am	9:20 pm	30 min.	Downtown Vancouver to 99th Street TC via Clark College and Minnehaha area.
30	Burton	4:58 am	9:54 pm	25 min.	Downtown Vancovuer to Fisher's Landing TC via Burton Road
32	Evergreen/ Andresen	5:54 am.	9:24 pm	30 min.	Downtown Vancouver to Vancouver Mall TC
32	Hazel Dell	5:30 am	9:17 pm	30 min.	Downtown Vancouver to 99th Street TC via Hazel Dell Avenue
37	Highway 99	5:35 am	11:35 pm	15 min.	Downtown Vancouver to Salmon Creek P&R via Highway 99
37	Mill Plain	4:50 am	12:07 am	15 min.	Downtown Vancouver to Fisher's Landing TC via Mill Plain Boulevard

Bus Route	Route Name	Weekday Service First Run Begins	Weekday Service Last Run Begins	Weekday Service Frequency (Peak)	Area Served (TC=Transit Center, P&R=Park & Ride)
39	Clark College/Medical Center	7:45 am	5:13 pm	60 min.	Downtown Vancouver to Clark College, hospital, and VA complex
41	Camas/ Washougal Limited	6:35 am	5:40 pm	1 am trip/ 1 pm trip	Limited from Camas/ Washougal to Delta Park/ Vanport MAX station (Portland)
44	Fourth Plain Limited	5:07 am	6:35 pm	30 min (peak only)	Limited from Orchards to Delta Park/Vanport MAX station (Portland)
47	Battle Ground Limited	6:10 am	5:25 pm	1 am trip/ 1 pm trip	Limited service from Battle Ground P&R to Delta Park/ Vanport MAX station (Portland)
65	Parkrose Limited	5:50 am	7:00 pm.	20 min.	Limited from Fisher's Landing TC to Parkrose TC (Portland)
72	Orchards	5:00 am	9:19 pm	60 min.	Vancouver Mall TC to Orchards area
80	Van Mall/ Fisher's	5:45 am	9:51 pm	30 min.	Fisher's Landing TC to Vancouver Mall TC
92	Camas/ Washougal	5:30 am	8:22 pm	30 min.	Fisher's Landing TC to Camas & Washougal
105	I-5 Express	5:45 am	7:00 pm	15 min.	Express connecting Salmon Creek P&r, 99th Street TC, downtown Vancouver, and downtown Portland
134	Salmon Creek Express	5:20 am	7:05 pm	10 min.	Express from Salmon Creek P&R to downtown Portland
157	Lloyd District Express	6:00 am	5:15 pm	3 am trips/ 3 pm trips	Express from 99th Street TC to Lloyd District (Portland)
164	Fisher's Landing Express	5:20 am	7:10 pm	15 min.	Express service from Fisher's Landing TC to downtown Portland

Bus Route	Route Name	Weekday Service First Run Begins	Weekday Service Last Run Begins	Weekday Service Frequency (Peak)	Area Served (TC=Transit Center, P&R=Park & Ride)
177	Evergreen Express	6:00 am	5:10 pm	3 am trips/ 3 pm trips	Express from Evergreen P&R to downtown Portland
190	Marquam Hill Express	6:00 am	4:30 pm	3 am trips/ 3 pm trips	Express from Kmart P&R and BPA P&R to Marquam Hill (Portland)
199	99th Street Express	5:30 am	6:22 pm	10 min.	Express from 99th Street TC to downtown Portland

During regular C-TRAN service hours, a connection is provided between the Vancouver Amtrak Station and the 7th Street Transit Center through a taxi voucher program.

All C-TRAN routes use lift-equipped buses, making them easily accessible to people with disabilities. C-TRAN also provides an ADA-compliant paratransit service, known as C-VAN. C-TRAN's paratransit service plan is described in the publication 1997 C-TRAN ADA Paratransit Service Plan (January, 1997). C-TRAN attained full compliance with the ADA in January 1997. Table 3-4 provides a summary of paratransit service hours and use between 1996 and 2006.

Table 3-4: C-TRAN; Paratransit Service

C-TRAN PARATRANSIT SERVICE (C-VAN)		
Year	Paratransit Trips	Revenue Hours Per Year
1996	142,495	48,317
1997	170,816	56,728
1998	186,665	67,769
1999	188,367	65,822
2000	162,130	55,308
2001	175,029	58,695
2002	180,867	61,538
2003	189,143	64,042
2004	178,652	66,254
2005	180,264	67,661
2006	192,052	72,410

In 2003, C-TRAN implemented its first innovative transit service, a dial-a-ride route replacing a low performing fixed route in Camas. In 2006, three additional innovative Connector routes were deployed resulting in a significant increase in trips and revenue hours. These additional routes restored a transit connection to smaller cities in C-TRAN's service area. In early 2007, the

Battle Ground Connector was replaced with Route #7 Battle Ground due to ridership demand. The Yacolt Connector has been replaced by an extension of Route #47.

Table 3-5: C-TRAN Connector Service

C-TRAN CONNECTOR SERVICE (Dial-A-Ride/Deviated Fixed Route)		
Year	**Connector Trips**	**Revenue Hours Per Year**
2003	10,381	2,592
2004	21,436	4,845
2005	16,214	4,343
2006	82,031	13,442

Figure 3-2 (map) shows the areas where the Connectors operate.

C-TRAN's facilities include transit centers and park and ride lots described in Tables 3-6 and 3-7 below. C-TRAN park and ride facilities provide more than 2,200 parking spaces at eight locations. Some are operated under a site use agreement. C-TRAN uses security measures to make the transit system safer for its users. These security measures include provision of mobile security patrols at the 99th Street, Fisher's Landing, Vancouver Mall, and Salmon Creek facilities. The City of Vancouver's Police Department maintains a close working relationship with C-TRAN and responds, as needed, to ensure a safe and secure environment for transit passengers. C-TRAN buses are equipped with emergency alarms, automated vehicle locators, and two-way radios. Additionally, C-TRAN's entire fixed route fleet and part of its paratransit fleet are equipped with digital video cameras. Passenger service facilities are located at the 7th Street in downtown Vancouver as well as at the Fisher's Landing and Vancouver Mall Transit Centers. Passenger shelters, benches, and waiting facilities are provided at most park and ride lots.

C-TRAN has installed and maintains approximately 217 passenger shelters and benches throughout the fixed route system within Clark County. C-TRAN has also installed solar-powered shelter flashers and transit stops, which provide passenger activated illumination for safety and to more easily read schedule information, at bus stops along key transit corridors.

All C-TRAN buses are equipped with bicycle racks that hold two bicycles. C-TRAN provides instruction and assistance to bicyclists who plan to use transit for part of their trip. Bicycle locker facilities are provided at many of C-TRAN's transit centers and park and ride lots.

Table 3-6: C-TRAN Transit Centers

Transit Center	Passenger Services	Security	Public Rest Room	Bicycle Locker/ Rack	Operator Lounge	Admin Offices
Fisher's Landing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
99th Street	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vancouver Mall	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 3-7: C-TRAN Park & Ride Facilities

Park & Ride	Lot Capacity	Passenger Shelters	Public Rest Rooms	Bicycle Locker/ Rack
Battle Ground	28	Yes	No	Yes
BPA Ross Complex	200+	Yes	No	No
Camas/Washougal	20	No	No	No
Evergreen	271	Yes	No	Yes
Fisher's Landing Transit Center[2]	563	Yes	Yes	Yes
KMART Shopping Center	30[3]	No	No	No
Salmon Creek	495	Yes	No	Yes
99th Street	610	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 3-8 summarizes the bicycle facilities C-TRAN provides at transit centers, park and ride facilities, and the agency's administrative offices.

[2] Fisher's Landing Transit Center also has a Park & Ride facility.

[3] Approximate – the use agreement does not specify a number of parking spaces.

Table 3-8: CTRAN Bicycle Facilities

Location	Bike Locker[4]	Bike Bank	Bike Rack
7th Street	5	9	N/A
Vancouver Mall	6	6	N/A
Salmon Creek	6	4	1
99th Street	4	N/A	N/A
BPA Ross Complex	N/A	2	N/A
Evergreen	4	8	1
Camas (Burgerville)	2	N/A	N/A
Administrative Offices	2	N/A	1
Annex	2	N/A	1
Fisher's Landing	6	N/A	2

INTER-CITY BUS service from Vancouver to cities throughout the northwest and nation-wide is provided by Greyhound Bus Lines.

Clark County has three **PORT DISTRICTS**; the Port of Vancouver, the Port of Camas-Washougal and the Port of Ridgefield.

The **Port of Vancouver USA** is situated at the terminus of the Columbia River's deep draft channel and forms a natural gateway to the river-barge ports of eastern Oregon/Washington and northern Idaho. The Port operates international cargo docks and currently offers 13 deep draft vessel berths. The Port is served by numerous river and ocean-going barge lines. In 2006, 526 ships made Port calls. In 2007, vessel calls are expected to reach 580 and the Port is on pace to handle more than 5.5 million tons of cargo which represents a 46% jump since 2005. The Port handles a wide range of cargoes including general breakbulk, project and direct transfer cargoes, containers, automobiles, forest products, meal products, and dry bulk commodities such as bauxite, ores, sands, and grains. The Port has dockside warehousing for general cargo and bulk storage warehouses. The Port of Vancouver supports the implementation of the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project. Deepening of the Columbia River channel from the existing 40-foot navigation channel to 43 feet will facilitate the deep-draft transportation of goods for years into the future and will help to keep the region competitive.

The Port is located within 2 miles of I-5 and is served by Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railroads. The Port of Vancouver has 600 acres of developed industrial and marine property. The Port has over 1,000

[4] Each bike locker has a capacity for two bicycles.

additional acres of land, including an additional 1.5 miles of waterfront access, proposed for future development. Work began in 2004 on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for this additional land's development as part of the Port's Economic Development & Conservation Plan. The Port's future development includes the Columbia Gateway area. The Port focused attention on rail access improvement with a Simulation and Access Study. Additional information on the Port of Vancouver USA can be found at the website at http://www.portvanusa.com/. Rail access improvement is identified as an MTP project in the MTP Appendix A list of projects.

The **Port of Ridgefield** is located about 15 miles north of Vancouver USA. The Port's taxing district extends over 57 square miles and the district is bisected by the I-5 corridor. Port-owned assets include the 75-acre Ridgefield Industrial Park located at the southwest quadrant of I-5 and Pioneer Street which is home to eleven businesses with some 750 jobs. The 75-acre Discovery Pointe Corporate Park is located at the northeast quadrant of I-5 and Pioneer Street. The Port also has a 41-acre industrial site on Lake River, 3 miles from I-5. http://www.portridgefield.org/

The **Port of Camas/Washougal**'s taxing district extends over 95 square miles of land with an industrial park, marina, airport, a park and wildlife refuge. The 430-acre industrial park, located south of SR-14 by Index and 27th to 32nd Streets, has a wide range of industries that provide jobs for over 1,000 employees. The Port has approximately 200 acres of prime property available for development. The marina has moorage to accommodate 356 and a boat launch. The Port district also operates Grove Field Airport (described in a later section). http://www.portcw.com/

There are two mainline **RAIL LINES**, both owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), that run through Clark County. The mainlines carry both freight and passengers. In addition, the Lewis and Clark Railroad is a 33-mile short line railroad owned by Clark County.

The BNSF Seattle/Vancouver line is in excellent condition and has 70 to 80 trains operating in the corridor each day. The BNSF Vancouver/Eastern Washington line is also in excellent condition and handles about 40 trains daily. Union Pacific Railroad operates some freight trains to Tacoma and Seattle on BNSF's lines.

AMTRAK has an agreement with BNSF to operate passenger service on the freight carrier's rail lines. AMTRAK trains serve Vancouver daily. During the 1990's Washington and Oregon began to invest transportation funds to improve local AMTRAK service. In 1993, Amtrak offered a single local daily round-trip connecting Eugene and Seattle with ridership totaling 94,061 trips. By 2006, service had grown to four daily Amtrak Cascades roundtrips operating between Seattle and Portland, with two extending to Eugene. Between 1993 and 2006, ridership increased by 570% from 94,061 annual riders in 1993 to 629,996 riders in 2006. Total passengers boarding and de-boarding at the Vancouver Amtrak station continues to increase with close to 60,000 total passengers in 2006.

The *Coast Starlight*, with service between Seattle and Los Angeles, via Vancouver and Portland, also provides once a day, daily service. The *Empire Builder* also provides one train a day, on a daily basis, between Chicago and Spokane then one part of the train continues to Seattle and the

other part continues, via Pasco and Bingen-White Salmon, to Vancouver with service terminating in Portland.

The Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor is one of only five designated high-speed corridors in the nation that pre-qualifies the region for federal high-speed rail funding. In late 1995, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and project partners published *Options for Passenger Rail in the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor* report. An Environmental Impact Statement on corridor improvements was completed and construction on some rail system improvements began in 1998. Custom-built Talgo trains are now in service on Amtrak's Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor service. The Vancouver Amtrak station facility is being upgraded as part of the Eugene to Vancouver B.C. passenger rail service improvements. There is also a funded project to improve rail in the vicinity of the Vancouver Yard. The project will add new rail bypass track and provide a grade-separated crossing of the rail lines for vehicles using west 39th Street in Vancouver. The intent of the Vancouver Rail Project is to increase safety, reduce rail congestion, and improve on-time performance of Amtrak's passenger rail service.

The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad is a 33-mile short line railroad owned by Clark County. The line diverges from the main BNSF northern line around NW 78th Street and traverses the County via Rye Yard off St John's Road and Battle Ground to its terminus at Chelatchie Prairie. This short line railroad is also known as the Lewis and Clark Railroad or the Clark County Railroad. The operating and maintenance responsibilities for the line are leased out under long-term operating contracts to two different railroad operators. On the line segment from Heisson to the south, the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) is responsible for freight operations. At present, this line segment serves the only active freight shippers on the railroad's main freight corridor. On the line north of Heisson, the Battle Ground, Yacolt, and Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Association (BYCX), a volunteer group, is operating a passenger excursion program originating in Yacolt. On the lower 14 miles from Rye Junction to Battle Ground, it is anticipated that considerable freight growth will continue through the freight operator to help support the economic development vision for Clark County. The upper 19 miles is anticipated for some possible freight operations and tourism. In 2007, the County was awarded $1.1 million from the WSDOT Rail Emergent Fund for rehabilitation to the lower 14 miles of track. This is one of many such state and federal grants anticipated to enable the County to upgrade the track to Class 1 status for safer operation and increased freight on both the upper and lower lines. A new trans-load facility has been created between 78th and 88th Streets. Under the recently adopted Comprehensive Growth Plan, the County has designated an area for railroad industrial. This will enable the development of industry and growth in shippers who will use the line.

Commuter Rail has been considered as an option for travel within the region. The Commuter Rail Feasibility Study (RTC, 1999) considered commuter rail options and reported on future capacity of the rail corridors in the region. Commuter rail was also considered as part of the I-5 Partnership study in 2001/2.

For **AIR TRANSPORTATION**, Clark County largely relies on the Portland International Airport (PIA) located in Portland, Oregon to the southwest of the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge. This is a regional airport with domestic and international passenger and freight service. Passenger airlines

currently serving PIA include Air Canada Jazz, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Big Sky Airlines, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Hawaiian, Horizon, Jet Blue, Lufthansa, Mexicana, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United, and United Express and US Airways. There are nonstop international flights to Vancouver, Canada; Frankfurt, Germany; Guadalajara, Mexico City and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Tokyo, Japan. Service to Amsterdam in The Netherlands is scheduled to begin in March 2008. In addition, air freight carriers that serve Portland currently include Air Transport International, Kalitta Air, United Parcel Service, ABX, Air Cargo Carriers, Air China, Airpac, Ameriflight, Empire, Express Net Airlines, FedEx, Kitty Hawk, MartinAire Partners, West Air Inc and Western. PIA saw rapid growth in passenger numbers and freight in the 1990's and now consistently serves over 1 million passengers per month. In 1998, passenger numbers surpassed 13 million for the first time. In 2006, Portland International Airport passengers totaled 14 million. The airport handles about 23,000 short tons of air freight per month. The airport is served by Tri-Met's MAX light rail which connects the airport to downtown Portland. C-TRAN buses connect to the Airport's MAX light rail line at the Parkrose Station as well as to the Interstate MAX light rail line at the Delta Park/Vanport Station.

Washington State's aviation system is served by a diverse mixture of airports in a range of sized. The system is comprised of public use airports, both publicly and privately owned, and meet a range of transportation needs for commercial, business, personal, recreation, training and medical emergencies. WSDOT's Aviation Division conducts long-term planning to face the challenge of maintaining and improving the aviation system for the future. WSDOT completed an aviation system plan in 2003 that included an assessment of airport conditions with a comprehensive data inventory. WSDOT Aviation is currently working on an update to the state aviation system plan, the "Long-term Air Transportation Study (LATS)".

Within Clark County, general aviation airfields include Pearson Field and Grove Field. **Pearson Field**, located 2 miles south west of Downtown Vancouver off SR-14, is operated by the City of Vancouver and covers 134 acres owned by the U.S. Park Service. The Airpark has one paved runway (3,200 feet by 60 feet) and can accommodate over 170 aircraft. The Airpark is on the Washington State Historical Register. Pearson is designated as a part of the regional transportation system. **Grove Field** is a Basic Utility Stage I Airport operated by the Port of Camas/Washougal. Located in the Fern Prairie area 5 miles north of Camas, Grove Airfield is one of only two publicly owned airfields in the county. Grove Field has a 2,832 foot paved runway illuminated by a low intensity lighting system and also a PAPI system, an above-ground self-fueling station and hangar space for over 60 aircraft.

In addition, there are a number of private airfields located in Clark County that include those described below. Taylor's Green Mountain Airpark is a 23-acre facility, located 9 miles east of downtown Vancouver with one paved runway, six hangars and ten-tie downs. Eight aircraft are based at the Airpark. Goheen Airport, located three miles northwest of Battle Ground, is privately owned. It has one turf runway and provides a base for about 18 planes. 45 acres of Goheen's 60 acre area are zoned for airport use.

The Washington State Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division and the local pilots' association proposed that an additional airport should be sited in Clark County because of the

vulnerability of existing airfields in the County due to ownership issues and development pressures. Efforts in the 1980's to site such a facility were thwarted when neighborhood residents opposed a proposed airport location in the vicinity of the I-5/Ridgefield Junction. Federal and state agencies and local jurisdictions have to work together to site such facilities and local jurisdictions must ensure that the land uses surrounding the facility are compatible with aircraft operations and remain that way.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

GROWTH IN TRAFFIC VOLUMES

As a result of socio-economic and demographic changes described in Chapter 2 Clark County has seen significant growth in traffic volumes in recent years. The MPO compiles traffic count data from local jurisdictions and publishes the compiled data on RTC's website (see below). Traffic count data is factored to adjust for seasonal, monthly, weekly and daily fluctuations in volumes. Examples of growth in traffic volumes at selected Clark County locations are listed in Table 3-9 below.

Permanent traffic recorders are in place on the I-5 and on the I-205 bridges. RTC compiles the traffic counts provided by Oregon Department of Transportation from these recorders or estimates provided by ODOT. In March 1995 RTC published the *Columbia River Bridge Traffic, 1961 - 1994* report. This data is now updated annually and is available on RTC's web site (http://www.rtc.wa.gov/traffic/arterials.asp). Figure 3-3 shows the average weekday traffic volumes crossing the Columbia river bridges, 1980 to 2006. In 2006 the estimated average weekday traffic (AWDT) on the I-5 Interstate Bridge was 131,916 and on the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge was 146,127. In 2006, the average northbound weekday evening peak hour crossings of the I-5 Interstate Bridge were 5,120 and 7,506 on the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge. In the southbound direction, average weekday morning peak hour crossings were 5,474 on the I-5 Interstate Bridge and were 7,779 on the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge.

Table 3-9: Traffic Volumes; 1985 to Current Years

Location	1985 Volumes	Current Volumes	Year of Current Volumes	% Increase	Annual % Increase
I-5 Bridge	92,301	135,835	2006	47%	2.2%
I-5, South of SR-500	54,400	127,528	2006	134%	6.4%
I-5, South of NE 78th St	52,784	99,250	2007	88%	4.0%
I-5, South of Woodland	33,748	66,034	2006	96%	4.6%
Hwy 99, south of NE 99th St	19,653	17,360	2006	-12%	-0.6%
I-205 Bridge	52,568	151,858	2006	189%	9.0%
I-205, south of SR-500	40,440	118,855	2007	194%	8.8%
164th Ave, south of SE 34th St	7,052	40,675	2006	477%	22.7%
192nd Ave, south of SE 34th St	Not Open	13,200	2006	N/A	N/A

Location	1985 Volumes	Current Volumes	Year of Current Volumes	% Increase	Annual % Increase
SR-14, west of SE 164th Ave	22,600	80,771	2007	257%	11.7%
SR-14, west of NW 6th Ave	17,600	40,787	2007	132%	6.0%
Mill Plain, east of NE Andresen	21,021	26,604	2004	27%	1.4%
Mill Plain, east of NE Chkalov	18,220	40,679	2006	123%	5.9%
NE 18th Street, east of 138th Ave	7,557	14,185	2002	88%	5.2%
Fourth Plain, west of NE Andresen	16,060	21,743	2006	35%	1.7%
Fourth Plain, west of 137th Ave	14,671	29,570	2005	102%	5.1%
SR-500, west of NE Andresen	20,054	53,608	2006	167%	8.0%
Padden Parkway, west of NE 94th Ave	3,952	27,678	2007	600%	27.3%
78th St, west of Hwy 99	23,646	33,067	2006	40%	1.9%
139th St, west of NE 10th Ave	11,218	18,950	2006	69%	3.3%
SR-503, south of NE 76th St	17,460	36,858	2006	111%	5.3%
SR-503, south of SR-502	7,360	22,506	2005	206%	10.3%

The highest daily traffic ever recorded on the I-5 Interstate Bridge was on Friday July 2, 2004 when 157,301 bridge crossings were made. The highest evening peak hour traffic ever recorded on the I-5 Bridge was on Tuesday May 28, 1996 when 10,838 bridge crossing were made. For the northbound direction, the highest evening peak hour traffic was recorded on Thursday June 11, 1998 when 5,987 bridge crossings were made. For the southbound direction, the highest morning peak hour traffic was recorded on Wednesday March 31, 2004 when 6,119 bridge crossings were made.

The I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge's highest daily crossings ever recorded was on Friday June 30, 2006 with 168,503 crossings. The highest evening peak hour traffic recorded on the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge was on Friday August 3, 2006 when 13,284 bridge crossings were made. The highest northbound evening peak hour traffic recorded on the Bridge is the 8,426 crossings made on Friday May 24, 1996. For the southbound direction, the highest morning peak hour traffic was recorded on Tuesday October 7, 2003 when 8,247 bridge crossings were made. The highest all-day total river crossings were recorded on Friday, July 2, 2004 when 325,095 trips crossed the Columbia river on the I-5 Interstate and I-205 Glenn Jackson bridges.

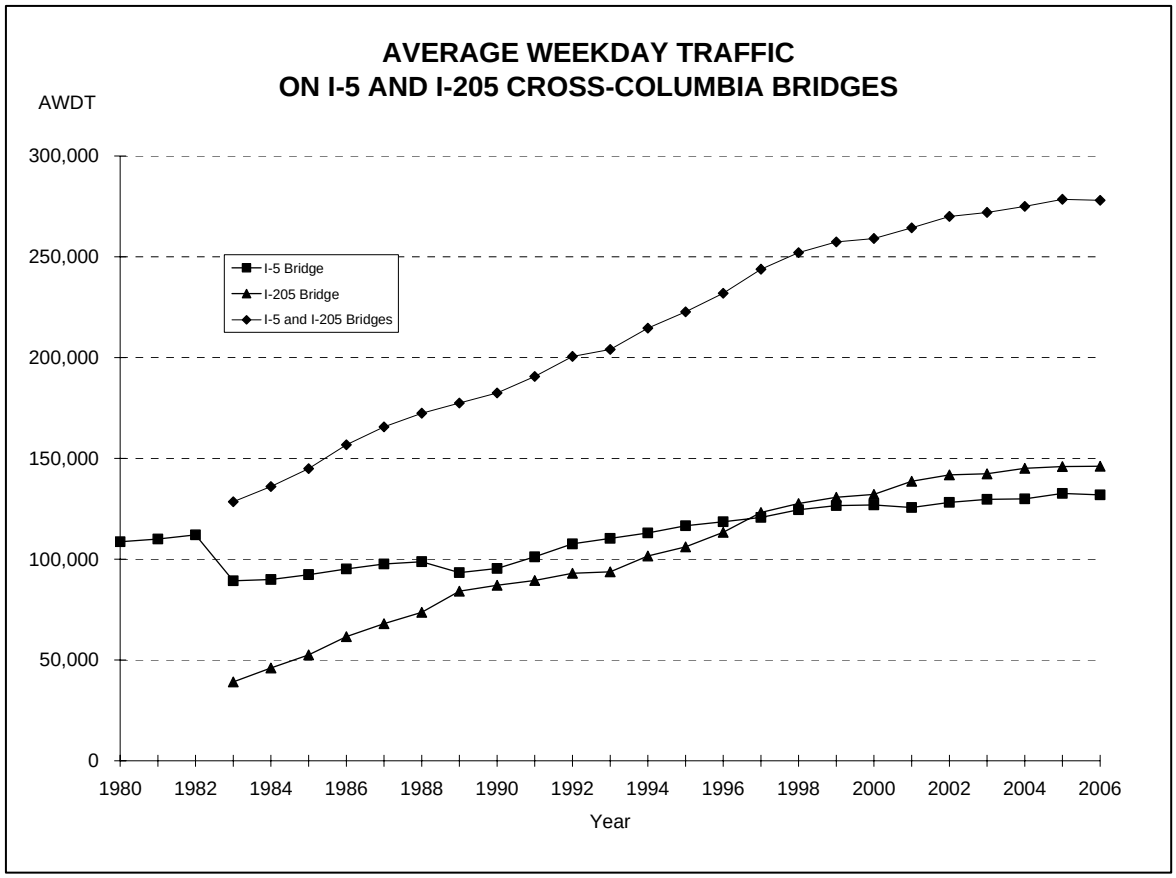


Figure 3-3: I-5, I-205 Average Weekday Bridge Crossings

Regional transportation system intersections with the highest traffic volumes, measured in terms of number of vehicles entering intersection, are listed in Table 3-10.

Table 3-10: Highest Volume Intersections in Clark County, 2006

CLARK COUNTY HIGHEST VOLUME INTERSECTIONS - 2006				
Rank	**East-West**	**North/South**	**Approx. Volume**	**Count Year**
1	State Route 500/Fourth Plain	State Route 503	75,000	2005
2	Mill Plain Blvd.	Chkalov Drive	75,000	2006
3	State Route 500	St. John's Road	67,000	2004
4	State Route 500	NE 54th Avenue	59,000	2003
5	State Route 500	NE 42nd Avenue	58,000	2003
6	Mill Plain Blvd.	136th Avenue	56,000	2006
7	Fourth Plain Blvd.	Andresen Road	54,000	2006
8	Padden Parkway	State Route 503	54,000	2003
9	NE 78th Street	Highway 99	51,000	2006
10	NE 134th Street	20th Avenue/Highway 99	51,000	2006
11	Padden Parkway	Andresen Road	49,000	2004
12	NE 76th Street	State Route 503	47,000	2006
13	SE 34th Street	SE 164th Avenue	46,000	2006
14	Mill Plain Blvd.	123rd / 124th Avenue	46,000	2004
15	State Route 502	State Route 503	46,000	2005
16	Padden Parkway	94th Avenue	45,000	2004
17	Fourth Plain Blvd. (SR-500)	NE 121st Avenue	43,000	2000

Notes: Volumes are based on the total number of vehicles entering an intersection on an average weekday, and are approximate due to the variability from year to year.
Freeway ramp intersections with streets were not considered for this listing
Source: RTC's Regional Traffic Count Program.

REGIONAL TRAVEL FORECASTING MODEL: FORECASTING FUTURE TRAVEL DEMAND AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

The Regional Travel Forecasting Model for the Clark County region was used to forecast future traffic volumes on the regional transportation system. The regional travel forecast model uses demographic data as a basis for travel forecasts with the basis for the 2030 travel demand forecast model being the underlying forecast 2030 land uses. The travel model process involves trip generation, trip distribution, mode split and trip assignment to the regional transportation system. EMME/2 software is used to assign trips to the regional transportation system as part of the Clark County region's travel forecast model process.

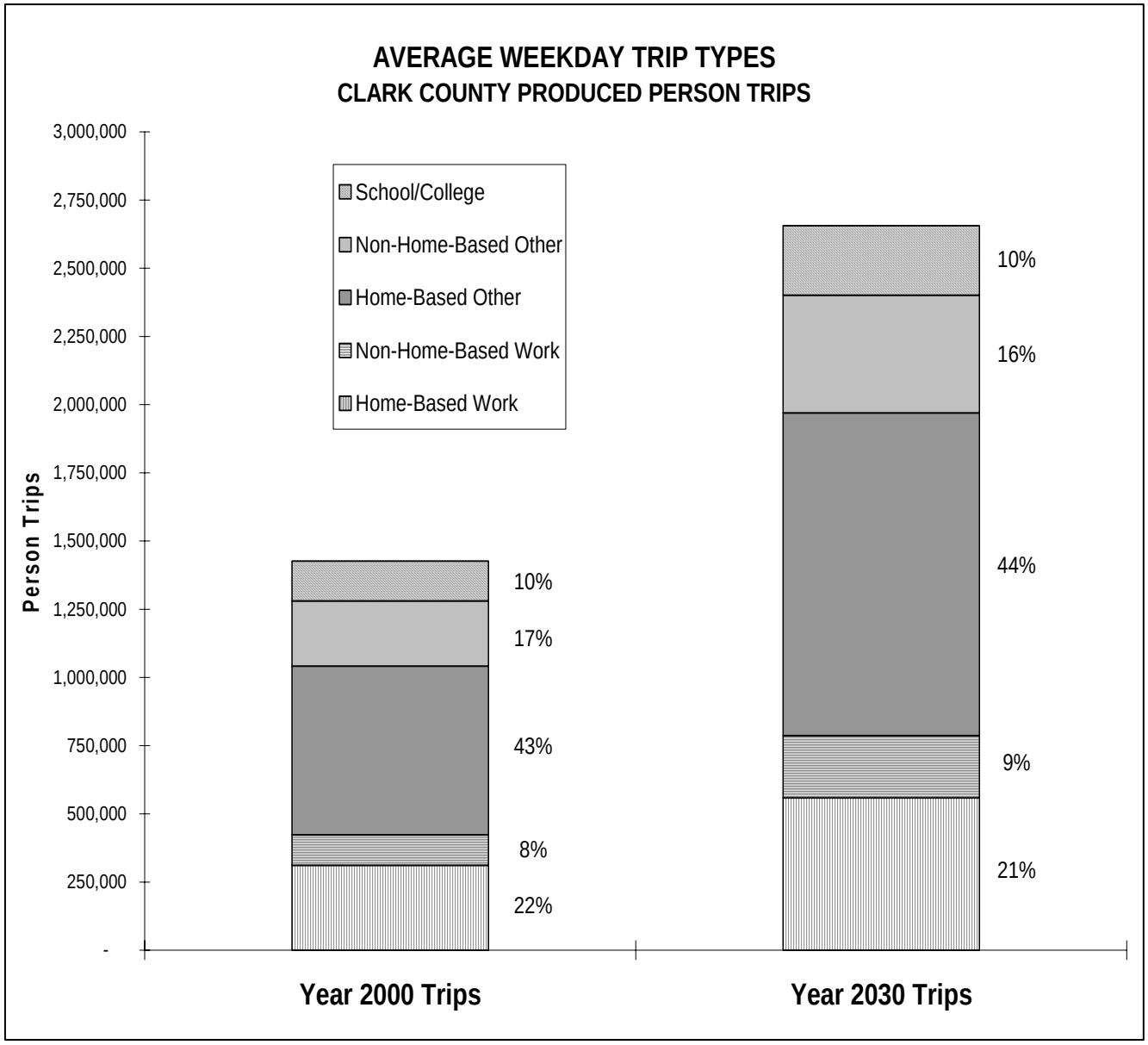
In the modeling process, a base year of 2000 was used and a forecast to the year 2030 was made. As described in Chapter 2, the MTP update must be based on adopted land use plans of local jurisdictions. 2030 land uses are based on the adopted Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County (Clark County, September 2007) which has a horizon year of 2024, extended six years to the MTP's 2030 horizon. Prior to adoption of the Comprehensive Growth

Management Plans, alternative land use scenarios, and their effect on regional transportation needs, are tested and measured as part of the Growth Management planning process. The 2030 land use allocation to 650 Clark County Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ's) was developed by local jurisdictions and RTC's partner agencies using their adopted comprehensive land use plans, as well as current zoning, as the basis for forecasting the future location of population, housing and employment within Clark County. Household and employment data allocated to the TAZs are the input to the regional travel forecast model. After trip generation, trip distribution, mode split and trip assignment onto the assumed regional transportation network, output from the regional travel forecast model is used as a tool to identify specific transportation system needs and future transportation solutions.

Trips can be classified according to place of trip production and purpose of trip. The regional travel forecasting model for Clark County categorizes trips into six groups, they are Home-Based Work, Non-Home-Based Work, Home-Based Other, Non-Home-Based Other, School and College trips. Figure 3-4 show the proportion of trips in each of these categories for average weekday Clark County-produced person trips. In Figure 3-5 4 College and School trips have been aggregated.

Figure 3-4 shows that in the 2000 base year the largest proportion of trips during a 24-hour period are Home-Based-Other trips (43%). This category can include trips from home to the grocery store, home to childcare, home to leisure activities etc. The second highest category is Home-Based Work trips (22%). Non Home-Based-Other trips make up 17% of the trips. This category can include such trips as shopping mall to restaurant trips. The home-based categories include trips originating at home and going to a destination as well as the return trip to home. School and college trips make up 10% of trips made on a daily basis and Non-Home-Based Work trips, such as delivery trips, made up 8% of daily trips. The proportions for the year 2030 are 44% Home-Based-Other trips, 21% Home-Based-Work trips, 16% Non-Home Based Other trip, 10% school/college trips and 9% Non-Home-Based Work trips. From 2000 to 2030 there is forecast to be a 86% increase in all-day person trips from around 1,427,000 trips per day in 2000 to over 2.65 million in 2030.

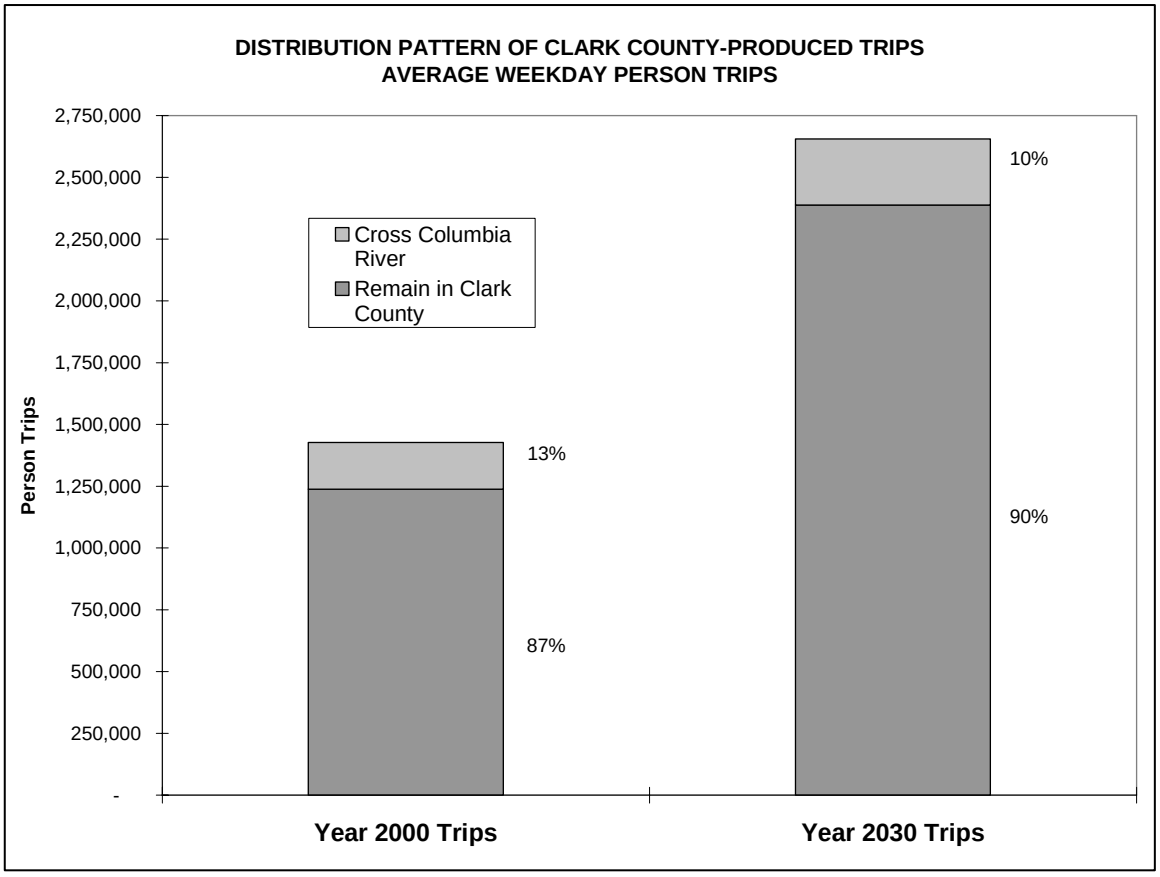
Figure 3-4: Average Weekday Trip Types, Clark County Produced Person Trips



Source: RTC Regional Travel Forecast Model

Trips can also be categorized according to where the trips begin and end. Figure 3-5 shows the proportions of trips that use the Clark County highway system; trips that remain in Clark County (87% of trips in 2000 , 90% in 2030) and trips that cross the Columbia River (13% in 2000, 10% in 2030).

Figure 3-5: Distribution Patterns of Clark County Produced Person Trips, Average Weekday



Source: RTC Regional Travel Forecast Model

Needs analysis was then carried out to determine what impact this forecast growth in travel demand might have on the transportation system. In carrying out analysis of existing and future transportation needs the regional travel forecasting model was used to run three scenarios:

Base-Year 2000 traffic volumes on 2000 highway network

Committed System (Year 2030) Forecast 2030 traffic volumes on "committed" highway network.

The "committed" network has improvement projects for which funds are already committed in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

MTP (Year 2030) Forecast 2030 traffic volumes on 2030 highway network with *MTP* improvements listed in Appendix A.

MTP improvements are projects for which funds are already programmed and committed in the *2008-2011 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program* together with projects for which there is an identified regional need, strong regional commitment, and a reasonable expectation that funds will be available within the twenty-year horizon to construct them.

Tables 3-11, 3-12, 3-13 and 3-14 present system-wide benchmark results from testing the scenarios described above. Each table presents data by functional classification.

Table 3-11: P.M. Peak Hour Speed

AVERAGE PEAK HOUR SPEED ON CLARK COUNTY HIGHWAYS (Results from Regional Travel Forecasting Model, using EMME/2 software)			
	Speed in Miles per Hour		
Facility Type/Region	Base-Year 2000	Committed System (2030 demand on Committed System)	2030 MTP
Interstates (excluding Ramps)	48	32	37
Interstates (including Ramps)	45	32	36
Expressways & Principals	36	33	37
Minor Arterials	31	28	30
Major & Minor Collectors	34	30	33
Other Roads	27	28	28
Total Clark County System	37	31	35

Table 3-12: Peak Hour Vehicle Miles Traveled

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED ON CLARK COUNTY HIGHWAYS IN P.M. PEAK HOUR (Results from Regional Travel Forecasting Model, using EMME/2 software)			
	Miles of Travel		
Facility Type/Region	Base-Year 2000	Committed System (2030 demand on Committed System)	2030 MTP
Interstates (excluding Ramps)	191,750	298,524	307,538
Interstates (including Ramps)	214,065	331,476	348,076
Expressways & Principals	195,661	297,192	305,927
Minor Arterials	85,773	163,289	150,344
Major & Minor Collectors	106,360	276,478	256,224
Other Roads	12,918	27,497	19,629
Total Clark County System	614,777	1,095,933	1,080,200

Source: Tables 3-11 through 3-14: RTC Regional Travel Forecast Model

Table 3-13: Peak Hour Lane Miles of Congestion

LANE MILES OF CONGESTION IN P.M. PEAK HOUR (Results from Regional Travel Forecasting Model, using EMME/2 software)			
	Lane Miles of Congestion		
Facility Type/Region	**Base-Year 2000**	**Committed System (2030 demand on Committed System)**	**2030 MTP**
Interstates (excluding Ramps)	7	44	23
Interstates (including Ramps)	11	53	30
Expressways & Principals	21	93	35
Minor Arterials	9	37	24
Major & Minor Collectors	4	83	31
Other Roads	1	7	2
Total Clark County System	45	272	122

Table 3-13 (above) presents data on congestion on the Clark County highway system. This measure represents the number of lane miles that operate under congested conditions (at volume to capacity ratio of 0.9 or above; equivalent to level of service E or F) during the full p.m. peak hour. The table's data indicates the relative growth in congestion forecast to occur in the future as travel demand increases.

Table 3-14: Peak Hour Vehicle Hours of Delay

P.M. PEAK HOUR VEHICLE HOURS OF DELAY - CLARK COUNTY HIGHWAYS (Results from Regional Travel Forecasting Model, using EMME/2 software)			
	Hours of Vehicle Delay		
Facility Type/Region	**Base-Year 2000**	**Committed System (2030 demand on Committed System)**	**2030 MTP**
Interstates (excluding Ramps)	484	3,558	2,493
Interstates (including Ramps)	559	3,746	2,618
Expressways & Principals	289	1,245	453
Minor Arterials	110	514	249
Major & Minor Collectors	47	1,308	326
Other Roads	30	74	42
Total Clark County System	1,035	6,886	3,688

Table 3-14 presents vehicle hours of delay. Using the time taken to travel a highway segment at level of service C as a base condition, any road segment operating at LOS D, E or F is measured against the level of service C base condition. The time difference is calculated, aggregated for the entire highway system. The result is Vehicle Hours of Delay. The data is of use in analyzing the relative increase in delay forecast to occur with growth in travel demand in the future.

The preceding system-wide data represents measures of assessing highway system performance, but perhaps more meaningful is an analysis of performance and needs within corridors or on individual system links and at intersecting points. A planning level of analysis, using capacity analysis and level of service standards criteria, was carried out resulting in a first-cut analysis of existing and forecast future deficiencies of the regional transportation system.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Level of service standards represent the minimum performance level desired for transportation facilities and services within the region. They are used as a gauge for evaluating the quality of service of the transportation system and can be described by travel times, travel speed, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience, and safety. The Washington State Growth Management Act states that these standards should be established locally and standards should be regionally coordinated. The standards are used to identify deficient facilities and services in the transportation plan, and are also to be used by local governments to judge whether transportation funding is adequate to support proposed land use developments.

Levels of service are defined as "qualitative measures describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and their perception by motorists and/or passengers". A level of service definition generally describes these conditions in terms of such factors as speed and travel time, volume conditions, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience, and safety. These levels of service are designated A through F, from best to worst. Level of service E describes conditions approaching and at capacity (that is, critical density).

For uninterrupted flow conditions (such as freeways and long sections of roadways between stop signs or signalized intersections), the following definitions[5] apply:

- Level of Service A describes free flow conditions, with low volumes and high speeds. Freedom to select desired speeds and to maneuver with the traffic stream is extremely high. The general level of comfort and convenience provided to the motorist, passenger, or pedestrian is excellent.

- Level of Service B is in the range of stable flow but the presence of other users in the traffic stream begins to be noticeable. Freedom to select desired speeds is relatively unaffected, but there is a slight decline in the freedom to maneuver with the traffic stream from LOS A.

- Level of Service C is still in the range of stable flow, but marks the beginning of the range of flow in which the operation of individual users becomes significantly affected by interactions with others in the traffic stream. The selection of speed is now affected by the presence of others, and

[5]..From *Highway Capacity Manual*, Transportation Research Board, 1985

maneuvering within the traffic stream requires substantial vigilance on the part of the user. The general level of comfort and convenience declines noticeably at this level.

- Level of Service D represents high-density, but stable flow. Speed and freedom to maneuver are severely restricted, and the driver or pedestrian experiences a generally poor level of comfort and convenience. Small increases in traffic flow will generally cause operational problems at this level.

- Level of Service E represents operating conditions at or near the capacity level. All speeds are reduced to a low, but relatively uniform value. Freedom to maneuver within the traffic stream is extremely difficult, and it is generally accomplished by forcing a vehicle or pedestrian to "give way" to accommodate such maneuvers. Comfort and convenience levels are extremely poor, and driver or pedestrian frustration is generally high. Operations at this level are usually unstable, because small increases in flow or minor perturbations within the traffic stream will cause breakdowns.

- Level of Service F describes forced or breakdown flow. These conditions usually result from queues of vehicles backing up from a restriction downstream. Operations within the queue are characterized by stop-and-go waves, and they are extremely unstable. It marks the point where arrival flow exceeds discharge flow.

These definitions are general and conceptual in nature, and they apply primarily to uninterrupted flow. Levels of service for interrupted flow facilities vary widely in terms of both the user's perception of service quality and the operational variables used to describe them.

Table 3-15 below quantifies Level of Service as defined by the Highway Capacity Manual: Special Report 209, Third Edition (Transportation Research Board, 1998). The average travel speeds are shown with their corresponding level of service designation.

Table 3-15: Level of Service Definitions (HCM)

Level of Service Definitions (Highway Capacity Manual)						
LOS Class	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**
Type I Urban Arterials Roadway Segment: Average Travel Speed (mph)	≥ 42	≥ 34	≥ 27	≥ 21	≥ 16	< 16
Type II Urban Arterials Roadway Segment: Average Travel Speed (mph)	≥ 35	≥ 28	≥ 22	≥ 17	≥ 13	< 13
Signalized Intersections Control Delay per Vehicle (seconds)	≤ 10	>10 & ≤ 20	>20 & ≤ 35	>35 & ≤ 55	>55 & ≤ 80	> 80
Unsignalized Intersections Delay per Vehicle (seconds)	≤ 10	>10 & ≤ 15	>15 & ≤ 25	>25 & ≤ 35	>35 & ≤ 50	> 50

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS ON HIGHWAYS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE AND HIGHWAYS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Congestion and Levels of Service continue to be issues of significance for Clark County as the region continues to experience rapid growth. In 1998 the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1487, otherwise known as the Level of Service (LOS) Bill. The Bill set new requirements relating to transportation and growth management planning. The LOS Bill aimed at clarifying how state-owned transportation facilities should be planned for and included in city and county comprehensive plans required under the Growth Management Act. The intent of the legislation was to enhance the coordination of planning efforts and plan consistency at the local, regional and state levels. The LOS Bill amended several laws including the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), Priority Programming for Highways (RCW 47.05), Statewide Transportation Planning (RCW 47.06) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RCW 47.80). The combined amendments to these RCWs were provided to enhance the identification of, and coordinate planning for major transportation facilities identified as "transportation facilities and services of statewide significance". The key requirements to the bill are listed below

- Designation of Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) completed in 1999 and most recently updated in 2004. The State must give higher priority to correcting identified deficiencies on transportation facilities of statewide significance. In the Clark County region the HSS system is I-5, I-205, SR-14 and SR-501 between I-5 and the Port of Vancouver.
- State-owned facilities, including Highways of Statewide Significance, to be included in local plans.
- Level of Service for Highways of Statewide Significance is set by the State in consultation with other jurisdictions.
- Level of Service for regional state highway facilities (not part of the HSS) to be set through a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) coordinated process with state, regional and local input.
- Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) are statutorily exempt from local concurrency requirements.
- The LOS Bill does not address concurrency requirements for regional state highway facilities.

For the HSS system the Bill requires that the transportation element of the comprehensive plan address the land use impact on the state highway facilities. The State, in consultation, will set the LOS for the HSS system and they are exempt from local concurrency analysis. In Clark County, WSDOT has established a LOS ‘C’ for rural HSS facilities and ‘D’ for urban HSS facilities.

Non-HSS state highways, otherwise known as Highways of Regional Significance, in Clark County include SR-500, non-HSS segments of SR-501, SR-502, and SR-503 must also be addressed in the comprehensive plan, and have LOS set in coordination with the RTPO. The law is silent in terms of including or exempting them from local concurrency rules. In December

2001, the RTC Board adopted LOS 'E' or better for non-HSS urban state highway facilities and LOS 'C' or better on rural non-HSS facilities.

Urban areas and urban facilities are defined by the GMA urban growth boundaries. Rural areas and rural facilities are outside of the GMA urban growth boundaries. Although local agencies may establish their own methodology for analyzing LOS, these LOS standards must be consistent with the Highway Capacity Manual LOS criteria.

Local agencies should incorporate the LOS standards established for both the Highways of Statewide Significance and regional state highway facilities (or non-HSS) into the transportation elements of their Comprehensive Growth Management Plans. Once local Growth Management Plans are updated, RTC must certify that the local transportation elements are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, include LOS standards for the HSS and non-HSS segments and describe the impacts of land uses on the state highway system.

CLARK COUNTY/VANCOUVER LOS STANDARDS

Capacity analysis is an estimate of the maximum amount of traffic that can be accommodated by a facility while maintaining prescribed operational qualities. The definition of operational criteria is through levels of service, as described above, or by other operational criteria. The Growth Management Act requires local jurisdictions to set levels of service standards for transportation facilities. This ties in with the GMA concurrency requirement that transportation and other infrastructure is available concurrent with development. Levels of Service (LOS) standards are to be regionally coordinated and were coordinated within the region during the GMA planning process in 1994.

Vancouver adopted a corridor-based concurrency ordinance in March 1998. In 1999, the City of Vancouver amended the existing Level of Service (LOS) standards contained in the Mobility Management element of the Comprehensive Plan. Vancouver regularly reports to its Council on the concurrency program. Levels of service standards to meet Vancouver's concurrency test requirements include: 1) corridor travel times (maximum allowable travel time between two designated points along a corridor); 2) an Average Signalized Intersection Performance Standard (a quantitative standard of the performance of all signalized intersections within an identified transportation corridor or Transportation Management Zone (TMZ); and 3) Mobility Index (the maximum number or percentage of signalized intersections which may have an operating level below the Average Signalized Intersection Performance Standard. Concurrency only applies to arterial streets in the City; local streets are not included in concurrency requirements. The City of Vancouver's concurrency corridors are listed below (Table 3-16):

Table 3-16: City of Vancouver Concurrency Measurement Corridors

Andresen Rd
- Mill Plain to SR-500
- SR-500 to 78th St.

Burton Rd
- Andresen Rd. to 112th Ave

NE 28th St
- 112th Ave to 138th Ave
- 138th Ave to 162nd Ave

Mill Plain Blvd
- I-5 to Andresen Rd.
- Andresen Rd. to I-205
- I-205 to 136th Ave
- 136th Ave to 164th Ave

164th Ave
- SE 1st St to SR-14

162nd Ave.
- SE 1st St. to Fourth Plain Blvd.

192nd Ave.
- SR-14 to 18th St.

Fourth Plain Blvd.
- Port of Vancouver to I-5
- I-5 to Stapleton
- Stapleton to I-205

St John's Blvd.
- Fourth Plain Blvd to 78th St.

NE 18th St.
- 112th Ave to 138th Ave
- 138th Ave to 162nd Ave

NE 112th Ave
- Mill Plain Blvd to 28th St
- 28th St to 51st St

NE 136th Ave
- Mill Plain Blvd to 28th St.

NE 138th Ave
- NE 28th St. to Andresen

Further information on the City's Concurrency program can be found at the web site address, http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us.

On October 10, 2000, the Board of Clark County Commissioners adopted a new Transportation Concurrency Ordinance and related levels of service. For details of the Clark County Concurrency program and travel speed standards refer to County website at http://www.clark.wa.gov/Public-Works/transportation/concurrency.html and Clark County Code Section 40.350.020 for details on the Clark County concurrency ordinance. The County's Level of Service standards rely on meeting minimum travel speeds in each of the transportation corridors designated by the County as outlined in Clark County Code Section 40.350.020. The corridor travel speeds are periodically reviewed and updated with the latest update in September 2004. Minimum corridor travel speed range between 13 miles per hour and 27 miles per hour, depending on the corridor. Facilities also have to meet thresholds for travel delay at signalized intersections within the designated corridors. Individual movements at each signalized intersection of regional significance shall not exceed an average of two cycle lengths or two hundred and forty seconds of delay, whichever is less. Outside of designated transportation corridors, all signalized intersections of regional significance shall achieve LOS D or better except for the intersections of SR-500/Falk Road and SR-500/NE 54th Avenue which shall achieve LOS E or better. All unsignalized intersections of regional significance in

unincorporated County shall achieve LOS E standards or better (if warrants are not met) and LOS D or better if warrants are met. There are some exemptions that can apply to concurrency requirements.

Table 3-17: Clark County Concurrency Measurement Corridors

Clark County Concurrency Measurement Corridors: Corridors and Corridor Limits Description

North-South Roadways

Lakeshore Avenue
Bliss Rd to NE 78th St

Hazel Dell Avenue
Highway 99 to NE 63rd St.

Highway 99 & NE 20th Avenue
North: NE 15th/20th Avenue , NE 179th St. to S of NE 134th St.
Central: N of NE 134th St. to NE 99th St.
South: NE 99th St. to NE 63rd St.

St. Johns Road
NE 119th St. to NE 68th St.

NE 72nd Avenue
SR-502 to NE 119th St.

Andresen Road
NE 119th St. to NE 58th St.

Gher/Covington Road/NE 94th Avenue
Padden to SR-500

SR-503
North: SR-502 to NE 119th St.
South: NE 119th St. to Fourth Plain

Ward Road
Davis Rd. to SR-500

NE 137th Avenue
NE 119th St. to Fourth Plain

NE 162nd Avenue
Ward Rd. to NE 39th St.

NE 182nd Avenue
Risto Rd. to Davis Rd.

East-West Roadways

SR-502
NW 30th Ave (Battle Ground) to NE 179th St.

179th Street
West: NW 41st Ave. to I-5
West Central: I-5 to NE 72nd Ave.

139th St. & Salmon Creek Ave.
139th Street (West), Seward Rd. to I-5
Salmon Creek Ave. (W. Central), I-5 to NE 50th Ave.

119th Street
West: Lakeshore to Hazel Dell
West Central: Hwy 99 to NE 72nd Ave.
East Central: NE 72nd Ave. to SR-503
East: SR-503 to NE 182nd Ave.

99th Street
West: Lakeshore to I-5
West Central: I-5 to St. John's Rd.
East: SR-503 to NE 172nd Ave.

Padden Parkway
East Central: I-205 to SR-503
East: SR-503 to Ward Rd.

78th/76th Street
West: Lakeshore to I-5
West Central: I-5 to Andresen
East Central: Andresen to SR-503
East: SR-503 to Ward Rd.

Fourth Plain Boulevard
East Central: I-205 to SR-503

NE 88th Street
West Central: Hwy 99 to Andresen

63rd Street
West Central: Hazel Dell to Andresen
East Central: Andresen to NE 107th Ave.

TRANSIT LOS INDICATORS

In 1994, as part of the GMA planning process, C-TRAN also identified LOS indicators to assess the operational quality of the transit system. This matrix has been updated and is presented in Table 3-18. It can be used as a guide to assess where transit service would be feasible in areas within C-TRAN's service boundary.

Table 3-18: C-TRAN Level of Service Indicators

C-TRAN LOS INDICATORS								
	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS						PLANNING INDICATORS	
Service Category	Passengers/ Revenue Hour	Load Factor	Peak/ Non-peak Headways	Bus Stop Spacing	Accessibility (within service boundary)	Span of Service	Density	Supporting Factors
Premium Commuter	TBD	1.0	10-15/NA	NA (or P&R sites)	Within 5 miles of 80% of pop+emp	M-F, peak	High density employment district as destination	Full cost recovery, parking mgmt, sufficient P&R spaces/transit connections
Commuter Shuttle	TBD	1.0	15/TBD	NA (or P&R sites)	Within 5 miles of 80% of pop+emp	M-F, mainly peak	High density employment district as destination	Parking mgmt, sufficient P&R spaces/transit connections
Urban Corridor	TBD	1.5	15/30	1/8 mile	Within 1/4 mile of 75% of pop+emp	M-F, 15 hours	More than 8 residential units per acre, mixed employment /comercial uses	Land use/zoning compatibility, pedestrian/ bike facilities, trip generators/destinations along corridor
Urban/ Suburban Residential	TBD	1.5	30/60	1/4 mile	Within 1/4 mile of 75% of pop+emp	M-F, 15 hours	4-8 residential units per acre, mix of uses along routes	Land use/zoning compatibility, pedestrian/ bike facilities, connection to major activity centers
Rural	TBD	1.25	60/120	TBD	Within 5 miles of 75% of pop+emp	M-F, TBD	2-4 residential units per acre	Pedestrian/bike facilities, citizen requests for service
Subscription	TBD	1.0	As needed	Desig-nated sites	NA	M-F, peak	NA	Specialized employer needs
Paratransit	TBD	1.0	NA	NA	Within 3/4 mile of fixed routes	M-F, 15 hours	NA	Passengers who cannot access fixed route, caregivers/providers who learn how to work effectively with C-TRAN

In 2008, service standards will be presented to C-TRAN's Board of Directors for adoption. Indicators consistent with new service standards will be incorporated in the next MTP update.

HIGHWAY SYSTEM CAPACITY ANALYSIS

EMME/2 software is used to analyze highway capacity needs for the Clark County region. Appendix A lists projects identified in the *MTP* as needed to meet future forecast capacity deficiencies determined by assigning forecast 2030 trips to an assumed transportation network.

The list contained in Appendix A notes projects which are incorporated into the 2030 regional travel forecasting model.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Highway capacity is not the only consideration in analysis of the regional transportation system. Consecutive federal Transportation Acts, The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (1991), Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and SAFETEA-LU (2005), emphasize the need to develop alternative modes and increase capacity of the existing highway system through more efficient use by, for example, ridesharing, system management and transit use. Other alternatives have to be considered before capacity expansion. Such strategies are described in more detail in Chapter 5, System Improvement and Strategy Plan. In addition, Chapter 5 also addresses the need for maintenance and preservation of the existing regional transportation system, safety of the transportation system, development of non-motorized modes and high capacity transportation systems.