



TRANSPORTATION

The Wenatchee Valley sits at the confluence of the Columbia and Wenatchee River valleys. This creates a transportation choke point for traffic and freight running both north and south and east-west through North Central Washington. The Wenatchee Valley is the junction of major highway systems including U.S.2 (running east-west through the State), U.S. 97 (running north-south through the state) and SR 28 (connects to I-90). The Wenatchee Valley is also host to a BNSF switchyard and crew change depot that connects BNSF's Columbia River Subdivision (Spokane-Wenatchee) with BNSF's Scenic Subdivision (Seattle-Wenatchee); and also connects BNSF's lines to Cascade & Columbia River Railroad (Wenatchee to

Oroville). These road and rail transportation lanes run directly through the business core of Wenatchee/East Wenatchee; and thus, have significant impact upon people and businesses.

The Wenatchee Valley's unique topography and road/rail/bridge infrastructure is already causing mobility congestion which is expected to increase in the future absent new transportation infrastructure projects. These projects will be initiated and funded with public funds, primarily by the State of Washington. The Chamber is interested in making sure that the projects chosen are optimal for the long-term economic health of the Valley and are funded equitably and appropriately.

Guiding Principles

- » The Chamber supports transportation infrastructure projects in the Wenatchee Valley that improve movement of people and freight in a safe, efficient and equitable manner.
- » The Chamber will not lend its support to any project prior to fully vetting the project. The Chamber's vetting of a project does not obligate it to lend its support.
- » The Chamber will support transportation funding mechanisms that are broadly applied to all users and not specific user groups.
- » The Chamber supports transportation funding mechanisms being fully dedicated (100%) to transportation needs and include language that prevents transportation dollars being diverted to other uses.
- » The Chamber supports performance and accountability systems for transportation infrastructure plans to measure progress and results.