

WISE INVESTMENTS IN TRANSPORTATION TASKFORCE

2015 REPORT





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City Council created a Wise Investments in Transportation Task Force in June 2015, which has met and reviewed the City's street maintenance, bicycle, pedestrian, transit and transportation funding policies and plans. At the conclusion of the 2015 work plan, all Task Force members share a common baseline of information about where the City has been and what the challenges and issues are for the future of the City's transportation system.

The Task Force has identified the following guiding principles:

- *Mukilteo's transportation system is a vital element of the community's quality of life.*
- *Prudent management of infrastructure requires regular maintenance to ensure that the community's assets are in good repair and managed at the lowest cost to taxpayers.*
- *Connectivity, synergy, and safety are valued characteristics of Mukilteo's transportation assets.*
- *Values of fairness and sustainability compel us to place greater emphasis on creating a smart range of options for transporting ourselves both within the city and around the region.*
- *A long term vision for transportation arrangements within our present city boundaries is just as important to us as a short term plan for coping with the realities we know.*

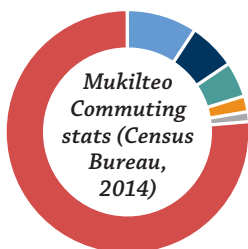
On the basis of these principles, the Task Force makes the following initial findings:

- *The City's current street investment is inadequate to the pressing maintenance and preservation needs of our streets.*
- *The City needs to identify the lowest cost maintenance and preservation techniques, including a reexamination of techniques that have been used in the past.*
- *The City should invest in a complete transportation system that is accessible to all residents.*
- *In order to construct a complete transportation system, the City should identify specific funding for bicycle, pedestrian and transit investments.*



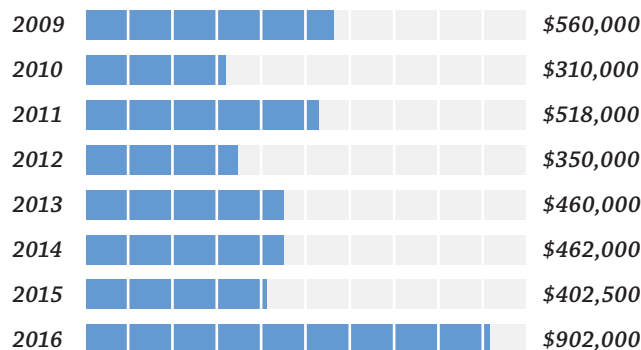
The Wise Investments in Transportation Task Force recommends that the City Council continue the mandate set forth in Resolution 2015-16. The Task Force envisions developing detailed recommendations on

funding levels and identifying one or more strategies to achieve the recommended level of funding, for review by the Mayor and City Council. The Task Force recommends a Final Report to the City Council by May 31, 2016.

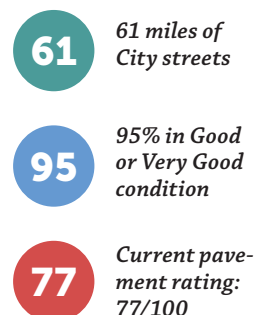


77% drive alone to work
11% carpool or vanpool
6% work from home
4% public transportation
2% walk to work
< 1% bike to work

Street preservation spending over time:
(City budgets, 2009-2016)



Basic street stats:
(City report, 2015)





BACKGROUND

The Wise Investment in Transportation Task Force was created in June 2015 through Resolution 2015-16. The resolution set out the composition and responsibilities of the task force:

- *It is made up of residents, stakeholders and experts to advise the city on transportation matters.*
- *It was created to provide independent analysis regarding the city's transportation policies, infrastructure needs and funding strategies*
- *The Task Force would review existing policies and plans including the Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Improvement Plan and pavement management and active transportation plans.*
- *The Task Force would make recommendations regarding transportation policies, levels of service, identified gaps in infrastructure, investment needs, identified costs, funding and financing strategies.*

In July 2015, the Task Force adopted a work plan that envisioned a series of introductory presentations and in-person tours to understand the various elements of the City's transportation planning efforts. In addition, the Task Force selected Joe Marine to serve as Chair

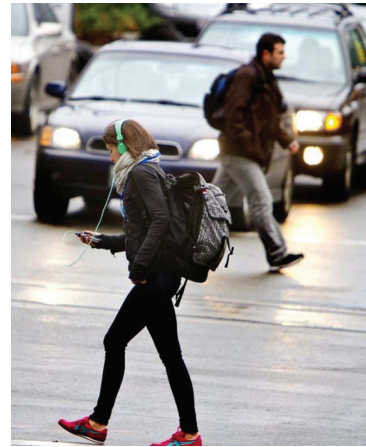
and work with staff to develop meeting agendas and presentations.

Per the work plan, the Task Force has reviewed street pavement options and the overall pavement maintenance plans and conducted a tour of various pavement



management techniques. The Task Force has received a presentation on the City's bike, transit, walking plan and participated in a tour of sample projects from the region. The Task Force has received a presentation on transportation funding, including the City's funding sources and historic levels of spending on transportation improvements.

The Task Force has also reviewed the data collected during a public open house for the Biking, Transit Walking (BTW) Plan. The Task Force reviewed proposals for a number of projects provided by the City's BTW plan consultant Cascade Design Collaborative. Task Force members have served as an advisory committee to



guide city staff and consultants in the development of the BTW Plan.

At the outset, Task Force members had varying levels of expertise and knowledge about transportation planning and infrastructure. At the conclusion of the

2015 work plan, all Task Force members share a common baseline of information about where the City has been and what the challenges and issues are for the future of the City's transportation system.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In discussing an interim report to the City Council, Task Force members identified some guiding principles that should frame the discussion of future improvements and strategies.

- *Mukilteo's transportation system is a vital element of the community's quality of life.*
- *Prudent management of infrastructure requires regular maintenance to ensure that the community's assets are in good repair and managed at the lowest cost to taxpayers.*
- *Connectivity, synergy, and safety are valued characteristics of Mukilteo's transportation assets.*
- *Values of fairness and sustainability compel us to place greater emphasis on creating a smart range of options for transporting ourselves both within the city and around the region.*
- *A long term vision for transportation arrangements within our present city boundaries is just as important to us as a short term plan for coping with the realities we know.*



INITIAL FINDINGS

The Task Force has examined historic levels of funding for transportation infrastructure and finds the City's current investment inadequate to the pressing maintenance and preservation needs of our streets. A majority of the Task Force members endorse a minimum level of funding for street maintenance of at least \$900,000 per year. Two task force members identified a higher minimum funding level of \$1.5 million, citing the need to maintain the City's strong Pavement Condition Index rating and begin addressing roads in poor and very poor condition. These figures were drawn from the City's most recent Pavement Management Program Budget Options Report from November 2015.

Based upon historic funding levels for street maintenance, investing \$900,000 per year would require at least a doubling of funding for street maintenance purposes on average, although the Task Force notes that there have been years with even lower levels of investment by the City.



The Task Force also finds that the City needs to identify the lowest cost

maintenance and preservation techniques. For several years, the City used chip seals to reduce costs and provide maximum maintenance of City streets. This technique has not been used in recent years, although it should be reexamined as part of a comprehensive pavement management strategy that matches the lowest cost technique as appropriate to the needs of particular streets. Task Force members are insistent that the City rigorously examine cost estimates and look for opportunities to partner with larger agencies to deliver projects at the lowest cost possible to taxpayers.

The Task Force further finds that the City should invest in a complete transportation system that is

accessible to all residents. This requires thoughtful planning and investment in bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems, alongside the City's street investments. The Task Force endorses the development of a prioritized Bike, Transit, Walking plan that identified a cohesive system for residents to access schools, parks, and other destinations safely and efficiently. In addition, a unified Bike, Transit, Walking plan will position the City to compete for state and federal funding for these improvements.

In order to construct a complete transportation system, the Task Force finds that the City should identify specific funding for bicycle, pedestrian and transit investments. To compete for state and federal funds, the City will have to provide matching funds and should plan to set aside the necessary resources. In addition, there may be low-cost or interim improvements that the BTW plan identifies for City funding that supplement larger, state and federally funded projects.



TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

The Wise Investments in Transportation Task Force recommends that the City Council continue the mandate set forth in Resolution 2015-16. The Task Force envisions developing detailed recommendations on funding levels and identifying one or more strategies to achieve the recommended level of funding, for review by the Mayor and City Council. The Task Force recommends a Final Report to the City Council by May 31, 2016.

TASKFORCE MEMBERS:

- Joe Marine, Chair
- Len Baron
- Diane Cooper
- Melanie Field
- Marius Grigore
- Laura McCarty
- Rick Norman
- Kevin Wilson
- Councilmember Randy Lord, ex officio

STAFF:

- Marko Liias, Policy Analyst
- Glen Pickus, Planning Manager
- Andrea Swisstack, Assistant City Engineer