

# A Megaproject for Safety:

## Fixing Washington's Most Dangerous Roads



Everyone deserves to be able to move through their communities safely. But all too often, people are killed and seriously injured on Washington's roads – and it's only getting worse. Making our roads safe is essential to protect lives and ensure accessible streets and transit for all. **We urge Washington State elected leaders to take bold action by adopting a Megaproject for Safety.**

### The Crisis on Washington's Most Dangerous Roads

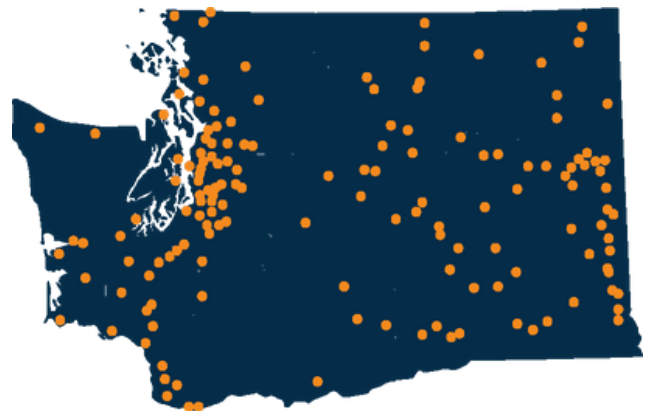


In 2023, Washington experienced its [highest number of traffic fatalities since 1990](#), with someone losing their life on Washington roads [every 13 hours](#). More people were killed walking or biking than in any other year on record, and [47% of these fatalities](#) occurred on roads managed by the state. Injuries and fatalities are especially common on main street highways within population centers, often featuring a mixed-use design known as *stroads*. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) owns these dangerous main street highways. It's time for the state to take action to fix them.

### What is a Main Street Highway?

Main street highways combine the wide lanes and high speeds of a busy highway with the business and social activity of a smaller main street. In Washington, main street highways comprise about 1,100 miles of our highways. They were initially built for high-speed travel, and as urban areas have expanded, these roadways are now places where people live and work, and are home to some of the busiest bus lines in the state. A combination of high speeds, frequent driveways, and lack of crosswalks and sidewalks has resulted in a more hazardous environment for everyone.

*The orange dots on the state map represent all of Washington's existing main street highways.*



**WSDOT reports that fatal crashes on these roads are over twice as frequent, and serious injury crashes are more than three times higher compared to other state routes.**

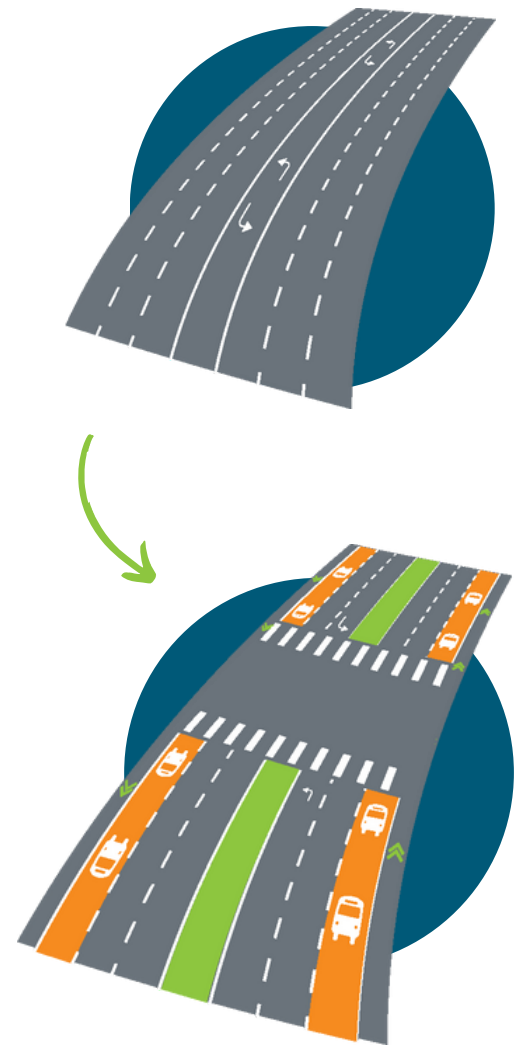


**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE**

## A Big Solution for a Big Problem

WSDOT has successfully managed and completed large-scale infrastructure projects for highways, bridges, and freight corridors, colloquially known as megaprojects. While these projects have used the state's money and might to move people, we haven't seen that same focus on safety on our most dangerous roadways. **We must leverage a similar level of funding and political will to develop and manage large-scale projects focused on making these dangerous, busy roadways safer for everyone.**

**We want to see a bold plan from elected leaders** to make a decades-long investment in essential safety projects on main street highways aimed at lowering speed limits, improving sidewalks and crosswalks, upgrading existing bus stops for better safety and accessibility, building bus lanes to speed up buses, and installing traffic-calming measures like narrower lanes and medians. Portland, OR's ambitious vision for [82nd Avenue](#) exemplifies how to reimagine a dangerous corridor to be safer and more accessible for all. Similarly, Vancouver, WA's [Upper Main Street Safety and Mobility Project](#) is leveraging investments in paving and transit infrastructure to improve safety on a main street.



## What We Need

Despite the clear benefits of safety interventions, funding them remains a challenge. Former WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar emphasized the need for increased funding – a **[standalone allocation of \\$150 million per year](#)** to maintain and modernize state-owned roadways that run through population centers.

**We urge state elected leaders to meet this need and secure \$2 billion over the next 10 years to address safety on main street highways.** This would be in addition to safety and Complete Streets upgrades during routine maintenance on all state roadways.

**By adopting a Megaproject for Safety, Washington can save lives and set an example for the rest of the nation on how to fix our most dangerous roads.**

**Learn more and take action at [transportationchoices.org/safety](https://transportationchoices.org/safety)**

*Transportation Choices Coalition* advocates for safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation for all residents in Washington State. For over 30 years, it has brought together businesses, labor, transit agencies, transit riders, and elected leaders to win transformative policies and funding.