

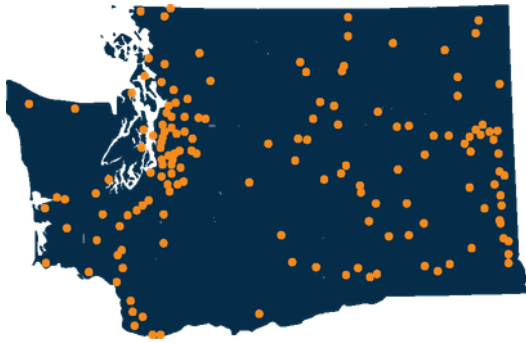
# From Dangerous Highways to Safer Streets:

## How a Megaproject for Safety Can Improve Corridor Safety and Strengthen Communities



State-owned highways that run through population centers, what we call Main Street highways, are some of Washington's busiest transit corridors. **They're also places where people walking and biking are more likely to be killed or seriously injured.** Washington's Megaproject for Safety should help tackle this crisis at scale.

### The Cost of Neglect is Still High



The orange dots represent major Main Street highways throughout Washington.

148

people were killed walking in 2025, the 3rd highest annual pedestrian deaths on record, after 2023 and 2024.

~1,500

miles of Main Street highways in WA

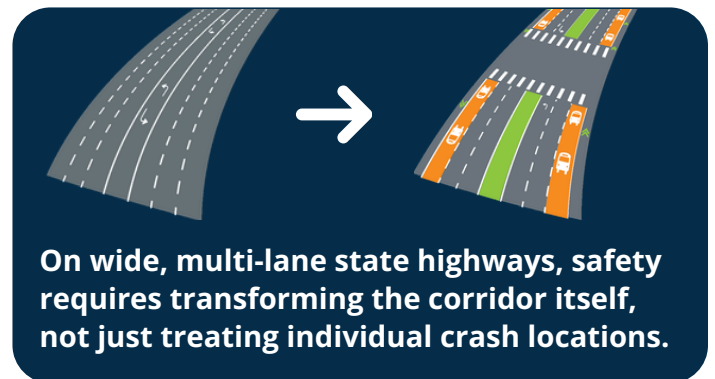
87%

of fatal and serious-injury crashes involving people walking or biking on **state highways** in 2023 occurred **within population centers** (WSDOT)

### A Solution Bigger Than One Project

While individual projects matter, some corridors cannot be fixed one project at a time. A paving project may address one segment, while transit, sidewalks, crossings, land use, and other investments move forward on different timelines.

**Washington's Megaproject for Safety should start with the corridor as the core unit of investment.** Treating corridors as major infrastructure challenges brings together sustained funding, multiple projects, and partners around a shared safety and mobility vision.



**On wide, multi-lane state highways, safety requires transforming the corridor itself, not just treating individual crash locations.**

### Integrated Safety Investments Deliver Much More

Safe Route 99

**Safer streets work best when safety, transit, walking and biking access, and community investment reinforce each other.**

**Integrating safety strategies** with transit, walking, and biking connections, as well as land-use planning, **reduces the risk of crashes.**

#### Safety-focused corridor transformations:

- Support downtown revitalization and job growth
- Reduce vehicle speeds and crashes
- Attract additional public and private investment

As highlighted in a recent report by Smart Growth America

**Portland's 82nd Avenue** is a great example of targeted state investment and integrated corridor strategies supporting a safer, more complete transformation.



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# Washington is Moving from Idea to Implementation

Washington is beginning to build a new approach to its most dangerous state highways. After sustained advocacy from Transportation Choices Coalition, the state has taken initial steps toward a **Megaproject for Safety**. Now there's an opportunity to turn state safety investments into lasting corridor transformation.

2026

## WSDOT is tasked with defining a Megaproject for Safety Program

With \$250,000 in funding, WSDOT will create an implementation plan, including program scope, prioritization, partnerships, land use, funding needs, and multi-jurisdiction strategies.

2027

## WSDOT's recommendations are due to the legislature

By June 29, 2027.

2027-2031

## \$200 million is allocated for highway preservation on high-risk corridors

Washington State allocated \$100M in the 2027–29 biennium and \$100M in the 2029–31 biennium. The 2027–29 investment is focused on corridors with high vulnerable road user risk scores and significant preservation needs.

Next Steps

## Secure sustained, long-term state investment for this Megaproject

Now, we need to build on this progress with a multi-year funding commitment to transform Washington's highest-risk Main Street highway corridors.

## What We Need Now

Washington has begun building the foundation for a comprehensive Megaproject for Safety. The next step is to turn that work into a durable approach that focuses on the corridors where the need is greatest, aligns projects and partners around a shared safety vision, and sustains progress across budget cycles.

**TCC continues to advocate for a \$2 billion, 10-year dedicated investment to transform Washington's most dangerous Main Street highways.** Investing \$2 billion over a decade represents a fraction of the roughly *\$20 billion lost annually to traffic crashes in Washington*, an economic cost equivalent to 2–5% of the state's 2022 GDP.

Corridor-scale safety investments should be coordinated with maintenance and preservation to deliver efficient, equitable corridor retrofits that are shaped by community needs and support local businesses.

**Advancing a Megaproject for Safety approach can save lives, reconnect communities, support local businesses, and become a national model for how states transform their most dangerous roads.**

**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.

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