

ROADS DIVISION

The Public Works Road Division maintains, operates and improves over 900 miles of roads situated in unincorporated Kitsap County. This effort requires approximately 150 engineers, surveyors, planners, technicians, road workers and others who are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the County's transportation network in a safe and cost effective manner.

Funds required for operation and maintenance of County roads are primarily derived from the road levy portion of citizen's property tax, Kitsap County's allocation of the state motor vehicle fuel tax and various state and federal grants.

The Road Division is divided into three sections, each providing specialized services to County residents:

Road Maintenance

Maintenance and preservation of the County road system is performed by approximately 70 workers operating from the north, central and south district road shops. These workers are responsible for road paving, chip seals, roadway repairs, routine sweeping, vegetation management and other tasks. The maintenance group also provides 24/7 response for snow and ice conditions, weather related emergencies and other events.

Traffic Operations and Transportation Planning

Assuring that the County road system operates in a safe and efficient manner is the responsibility of the Traffic Operations and Transportation Planning section. This group is composed of approximately 25 engineers, planners and technicians responsible for traffic signal and sign maintenance, striping and roadway markings. The traffic group also analyzes and investigates accidents and other safety related items and develops concepts for improvements. Staff members also coordinate with the Department of Community Development to evaluate and mitigate the impacts of private development.

Another primary function of the Traffic section is planning for future transportation improvements. The Department's transportation planners participate in development of the County's comprehensive plan and coordinate with other groups and agencies to develop the six year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP process outlines priorities for preservation, safety, mobility, non-motorized and environmental enhancement projects and provides a cost constrained plan for implementation.

Engineering

The primary function of the Department's Engineering section is to design and construct roadway improvements identified on the adopted TIP. This effort requires a dedicated and professional staff of approximately 40 engineers, surveyors, right of way agents and construction managers working collectively to develop designs and bring them to life on the ground. Successful transportation projects require expertise in engineering design, survey mapping, right of way acquisition and contract management, and, an ability to bring these skills together to cost effectively address the need, address potential environmental impacts and respect private property rights.

In addition to new construction, this group also manages private construction activities situated in County right of way, acquisition of land for other County departments and a variety of other services vital to county government.

The three sections of the Road Division described above work collectively and interactively to manage the County's transportation network. The ultimate goal of the Division's work is to develop, operate and maintain safe and efficient roadways that meet the public's expectations and respect the natural and manmade environment.