

# Active Transportation Safety Is Safety for All of Us

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NCSL, Safer Streets, Safer States

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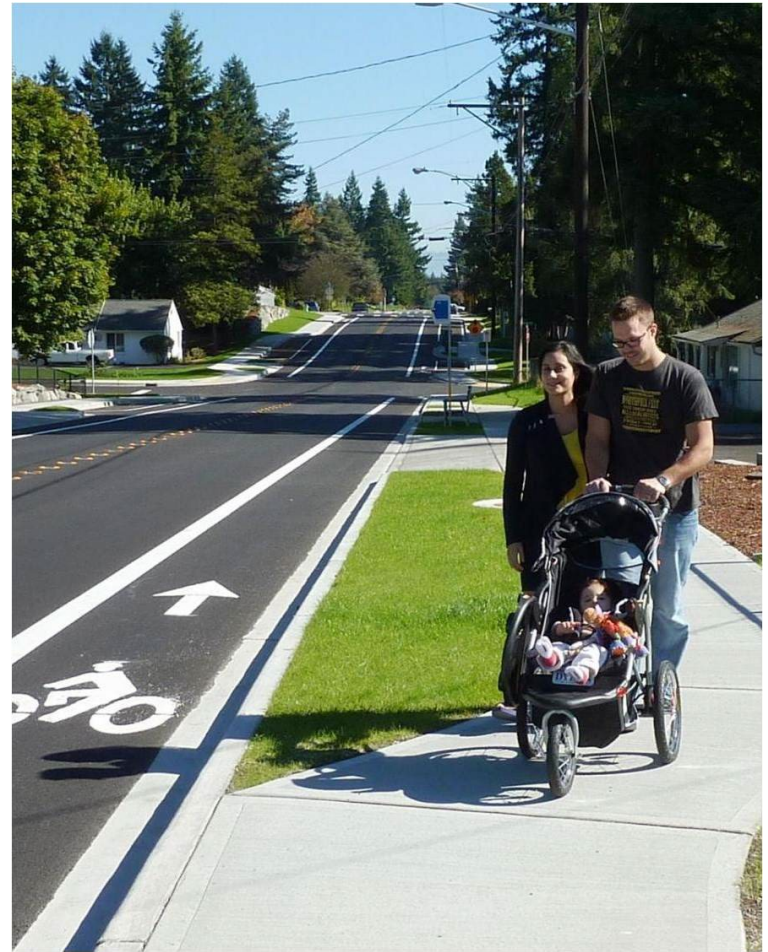
# Takeaways

- You can't legislate the laws of physics.
- "We can't enforce our way out of this problem." – Chief John Batiste, Washington State Patrol, on patterns in crash data
- Design never sleeps.
- The Uncle Ben rule: "With great power comes great responsibility."
- Your state has people who will never drive for transportation. How are you addressing their needs and their safety?
- **Active transportation safety is safety for all. You can't achieve it without transportation equity.**



# Where does your state rank?

- Smart Growth America: [Dangerous by Design](#) 2022
- League of American Bicyclists: [Bicycle Friendly States](#) 2022
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership: [Report Cards](#) 2022
- AARP: [Community Livability Index](#), [Complete Streets in the States](#)
- CDC: [Physical inactivity rankings](#), [Active People Healthy Nation](#)
- Compare your state's spot on these rankings to where you stand on lists of best states for business, best states to raise a family, other factors you care about



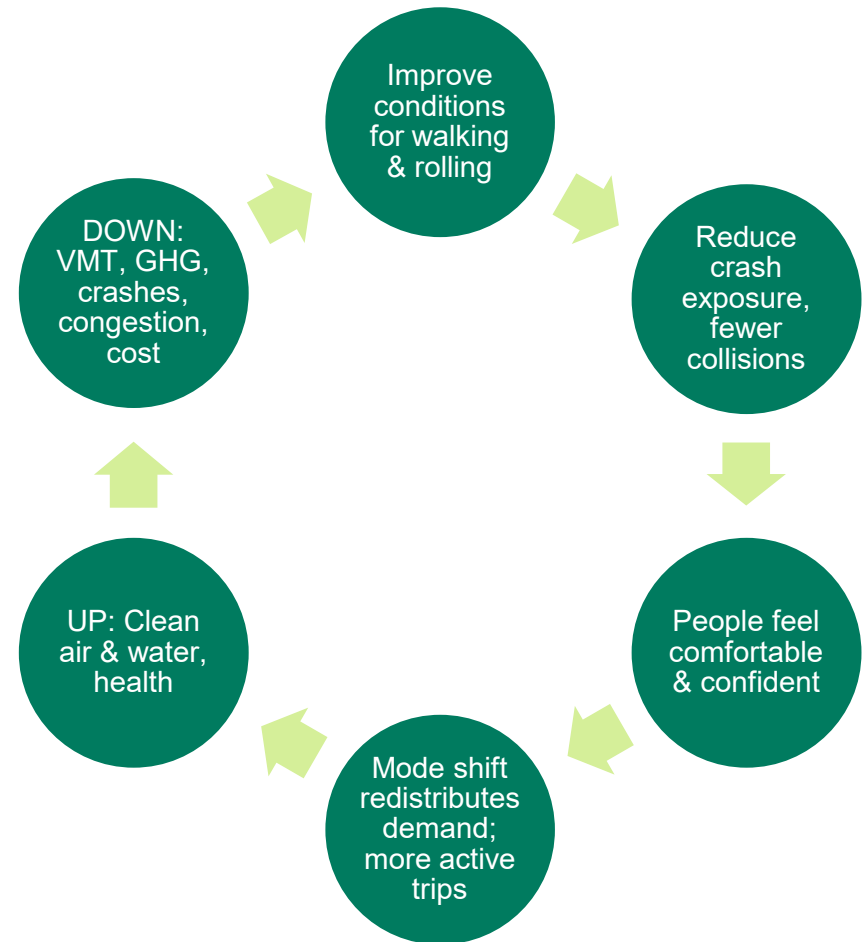
# Transportation in the Future

The integrated transportation system of the future provides safe, welcoming, and connected networks that invite and enable everyone to walk and roll where they need to go.



# Planning for Safety

- [Target Zero](#) 2019 (Strategic Highway Safety Plan)
  - Your state has one; what does it identify as priorities?
- [State Active Transportation Plan](#) 2021
  - Does your state have one?
- Cooper Jones Active Transportation Safety Council [Annual Report](#)
- Common themes:
  - Equity
  - Engineering safety by design: Safe System Approach
  - Capacity-building and partnerships: Problems don't stop at the city limits

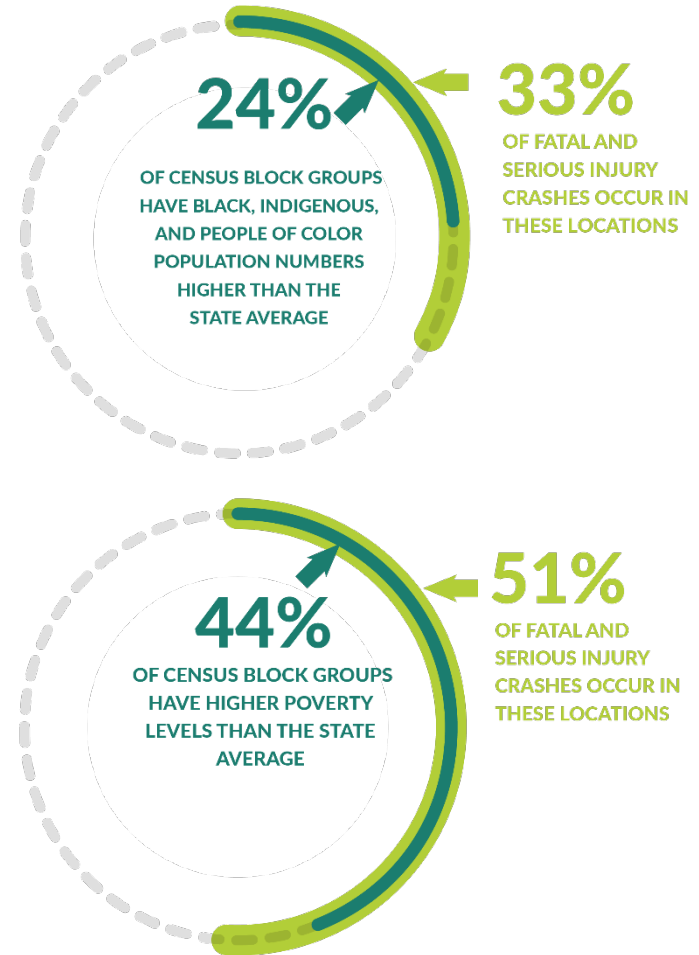


# Cooper Jones Active Transportation Safety Council

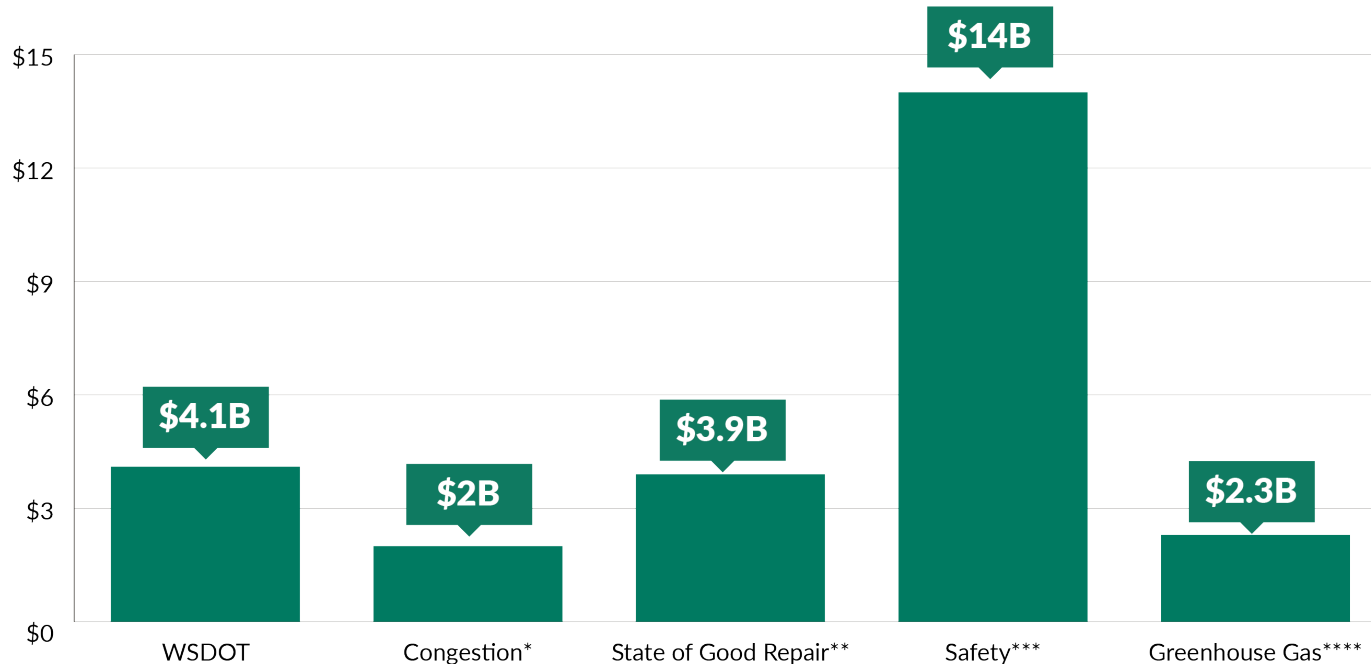
- Created in legislation
- Broadly representative: stakeholders and advocates, transportation professionals, local elected officials, tribal representation, public health, law enforcement
- Staffed in Traffic Safety Commission
- WSDOT staff time to develop and provide information, analysis
- White papers with background for legislative recommendations
- Space and time to dig into topics from various angles
- Examples:
  - Definition of “safety”: More than just crash avoidance; individual, community, societal dimensions; examples of policies that operate at these levels
  - Safety cameras: Research into their effectiveness
  - Speed management: Putting injury minimization policy framework into practice; case studies
  - Current topics: Hit and run; pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, and lighting; state policy commitments and what those might address (Vision Zero, Complete Streets, etc.)

# Equity Analysis Essential

- Washington first state in US to set goal of **zero** traffic deaths
  - What’s your state’s goal? How many deaths are “acceptable”?
- Pedestrians/bicyclists now **22%** of all traffic deaths in Washington—far above mode share or miles traveled
- Disproportionate fatal/serious crashes: By mode, poverty, and race (data from Active Transportation Plan 2010-2019)
- Can’t achieve goal of zero traffic deaths without addressing active transportation
- Can’t address active transportation without addressing equity
- These elements all appear in legislative policy and funding decisions



# Annual cost to Washingtonians



\* Congestion cost source: Texas Transportation Institute's 2021 Urban Mobility Report; based on value of travel delay and excess fuel consumption statewide. 2019 congestion cost was \$4.8 billion; 2020 cost includes the first year of the pandemic with a significant drop in travel.

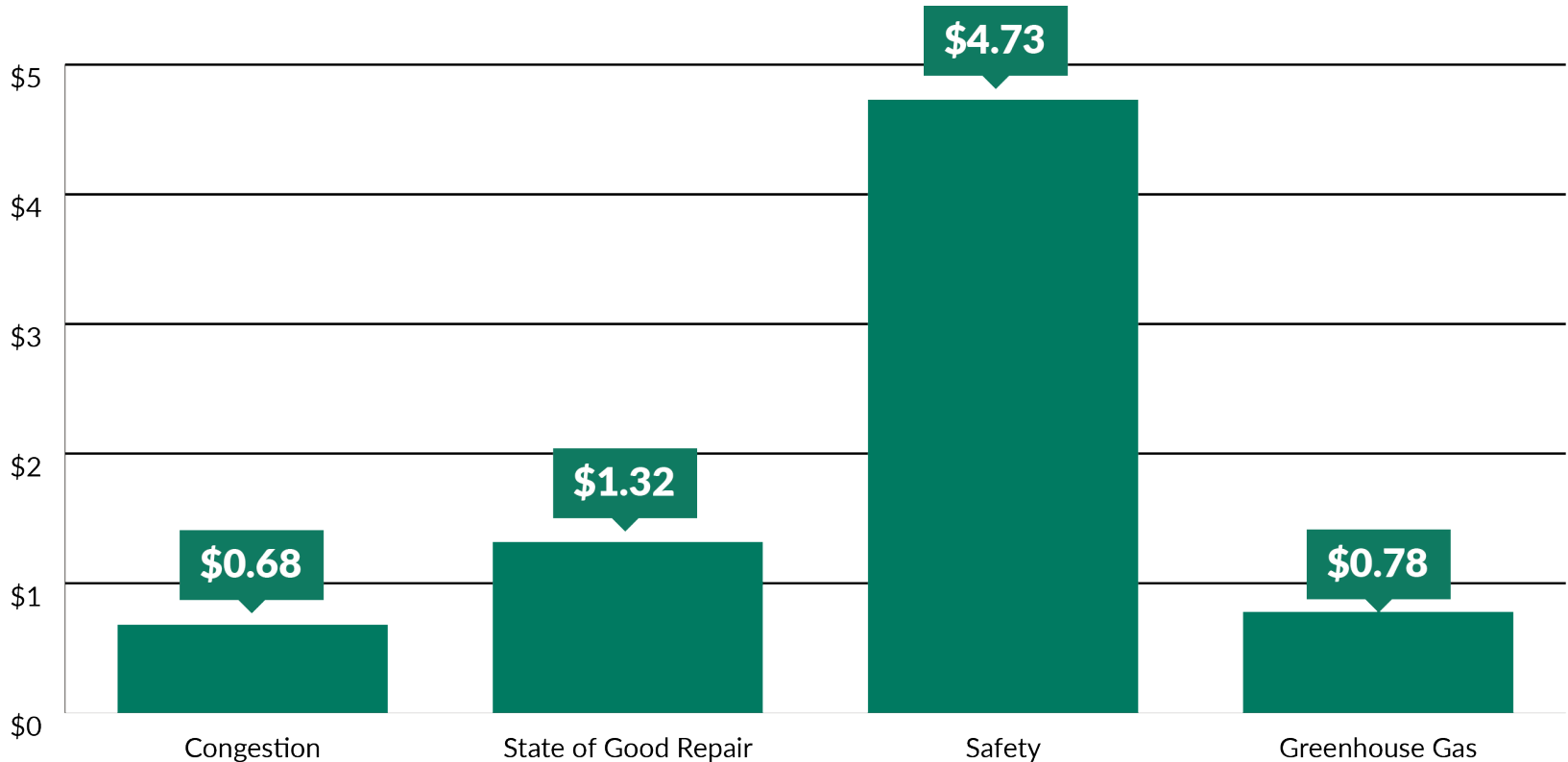
\*\* State of Good Repair source: ASCE 2021 Infrastructure Report Card; estimated at \$659 for every Washington driver.

\*\*\* Safety source: Societal costs of crashes calculated using methods described in Crash Cost for Highway Safety Analysis (FHWA-SA-17-071), Chapter 6, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety, 2018. Economic cost components include: medical care, emergency services, market productivity, household productivity, legal costs, insurance administrative costs, workplace costs, property damage and congestion.

\*\*\*\* Source: Washington State Department of Ecology 2018 GHG Inventory.

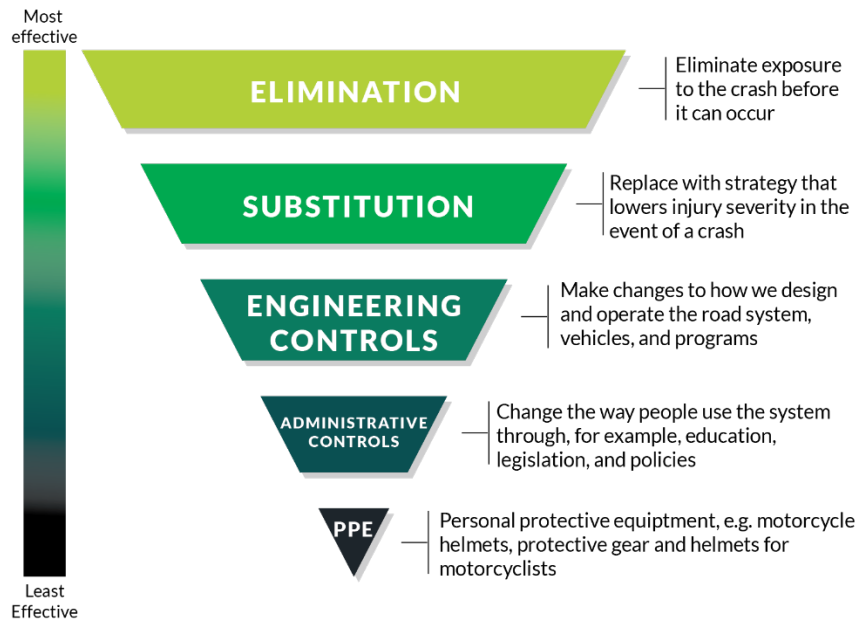


# Annual cost to Washingtonians (gas tax equivalent)



Source: Based on November 2021 Transportation Revenue Forecast Council, page 11-18 "Net for Distribution" for FY 2021, [www.ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/budget/info/transpo/Nov2020VolumnII.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/budget/info/transpo/Nov2020VolumnII.pdf)

# Safe Systems in other Realms



# Safety Over Speed

- Safe System Approach: Safe roads, speeds, vehicles, users, and emergency response
  - **Safe speeds aren't ones set using the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rule**
- 2013 [HB 1045](#): Neighborhood Safe Streets Law. Cities only; can lower speed limits to 20mph without engineering/traffic study
- 2020: [Injury Minimization and Speed Management Policy framework](#) (WSDOT led work group; context-based approach to set target speeds, iterate down through design/operation changes)
- 2022 [SB 5687](#): Extended option to lower speeds to counties + WSDOT

**86%**  
OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST  
**FATALITIES**  
OCCURRED ON ROADS WITH A  
**POSTED SPEED OVER**  
**25** MILES  
PER  
HOUR  
FROM **2010-2019**

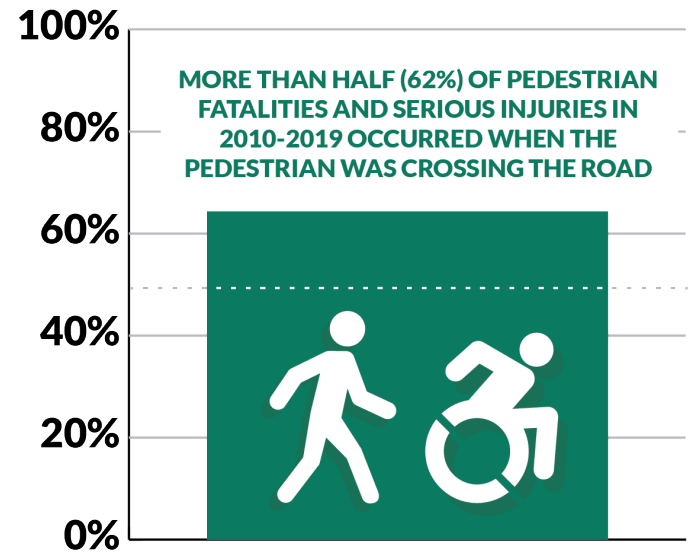
# Safer Passing + Safety Stop

- 2019 [SB 5723](#): Safe Passing Law updated to require drivers to move over a full lane where possible to pass a vulnerable road user or to leave at least three feet where the full lane change is not possible; fines increased
  - Same policy principles as “move over” laws for work zones and law enforcement
- 2020 [SB 6208](#): Safety Stop Law (similar to “Idaho stop”)
- 2022 [SB 5687](#): “Due care” standard for drivers extended to pedestrians (who had a higher standard before)



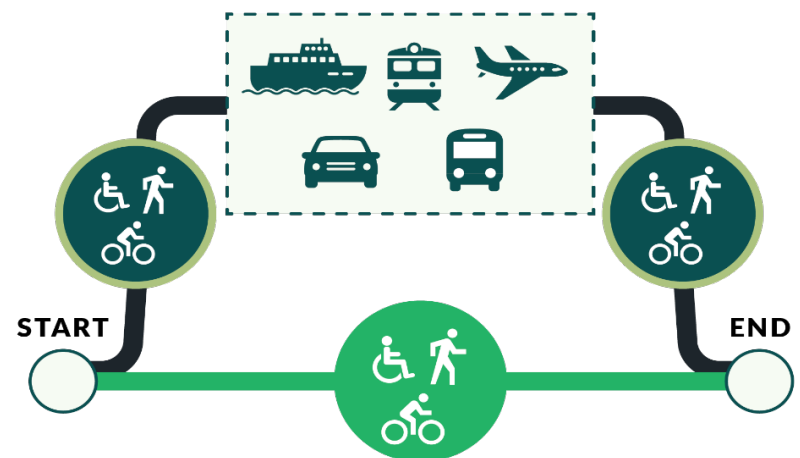
# Safety Cameras

- 2020 [ESHB 1793](#): “Don’t block the box”: Fines for drivers blocking crosswalk, transit lane, restricted lane
- 2022 [ESSB 5974](#): Expanded uses of safety cameras to include school walk areas (previously school zones), hospital zones, park zones, at-large areas identified through local planning and history of speeding/crashes/racing with equity analysis, one added camera for every 10K residents
  - Equity analysis essential: Wide, fast road designs that invite high speeds more prevalent in certain neighborhoods—the same places that lack walk/bike facilities



# New Mobility, Shared Mobility

- **What's the fastest-selling electric vehicle on the planet, with much higher sales than any other?**
- 2018 [SB 6434](#): Updated e-bike law to recognize Class I/II/III
- 2019 [ESHB 1772](#): E-scooter regulatory framework built on e-bike policies
- 2019 [HB 1325](#): Personal delivery devices defined and authorized



# Move Ahead Washington: Investments in Safety

- **New funding:** [ESSB 5974](#) Climate Active Transportation Account and Climate Transit Programs Account use climate emissions reduction funds
  - Prioritizes funds to benefit overburdened communities and vulnerable populations
  - Safety criteria in all new/expanded programs
  - Dedicated funding going forward: 24% to active transportation
- **More local projects:** Triples [Safe Routes to School](#) + [Pedestrian/Bicyclist Program](#) (2020 baseline \$37.5M; 2022 \$115.7M; includes estimated funding from existing federal/state + new \$\$)
- **Connecting Communities pilot program:** 5-year, \$50M; locations where legacy state facilities disrupted active transportation network
- **Bigger, better statewide bike education:** Elementary through high school –generational effect
- **Complete Streets design directive on state routes:** All WSDOT projects \$500K or more that go into design from July 1, 2022
- **Several studies** in supplemental budget [ESSB 5689](#): Nondrivers and their needs, micromobility device lending libraries, transit service benchmarks including accessible sidewalks, city transportation equity issues/needs

# Questions?

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