

2003 TNR APPENDIX P-1: OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS REPORT

The Transportation Needs Report (TNR) is referenced in Snohomish County's Traffic Mitigation Ordinance, Chapter 30.66B of the Snohomish County Code, as follows:

30.66B.085 Transportation needs report.

The director is authorized to adopt and update a transportation needs report based on and consistent with the transportation element and capital facilities element of the comprehensive plan. The purpose of the transportation needs report is to quantify the continuing need for road improvements on the road system anticipated by projected growth. The transportation needs report shall be used in evaluating the traffic impact of developments and determining the road system impact fee cost basis.

30.91T.100 "Transportation needs report" means the latest publication of the 1990 Road Needs Report or subsequent updates titled the Transportation Needs Report, as published by the department of public works.

The Transportation Needs Report (TNR) provides information on improvements that have been identified to Snohomish County's transportation system. The improvements fall into different categories including major widenings, new alignments, traffic signals, spot safety improvements, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, bridges, pavement preservation, and drainage improvements. Improvements are identified by various work groups within Public Works including Program Planning, Traffic Operations, Engineering Services, and Surface Water Management. Improvements are also added in response to information provided by other agencies and private citizens. Information includes the location and type of the improvements and a priority rating.

Each improvement is evaluated against other improvements within the same category to determine a priority rating. Information about each project is used to evaluate its relative benefits, impacts, and costs compared with other projects. Based on this evaluation, each project gets a high, medium, or low priority rating. This process helps to focus the County's limited resources on improvements that will provide the highest benefits.

The TNR also provides some of the technical support for the County's impact fee program. Specifically, the TNR aggregates the costs of improvements needed to support new development into different transportation service areas (TSAs). Various adjustments are applied to the costs. The sum of the adjusted costs in each TSA is the "cost basis" of the impact fees.

The TNR consists of 16 appendices (A through P). Appendices A through J deal primarily with the County's impact fee program. Appendices K through O deal primarily with identification and prioritization of different categories of road improvements. Structuring the TNR in this way allows individual appendices to be updated as needed without having to reprint the entire report.