

Client

Washington State Auditor

Location

Seattle, Washington

Services

- Reviewed congestion management practices
- Identified best practices
- Estimated congestion reduction benefits
- Analyzed traffic conditions using GIS-based tool
- Provided legislative testimony

Date

2007

Key PersonnelKeith Jasper, B.S.
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LEED® AP

Congestion Management Performance Review

Scope of Services

Delcan conducted a performance review of traffic congestion management in the Seattle metropolitan area. The objective of the review was to assess congestion management practices used by state, regional and local transportation agencies, and to make recommendations for how the region could reduce congestion over the next five years.

Project Description

Traffic congestion in the Seattle area is bad and becoming worse. During the typical afternoon peak period in 2006, 48% of travel on the major freeways was below 45mph, compared to 35% just three years prior. The area's highway network is very fragile—small problems can trigger large delays. Delcan's analysis covered all aspects of congestion, including institutional issues, planning and programming. Delcan conducted an international review of best practices related to congestion management. Delcan provided transportation expertise in the areas of operations, incident management, construction, pricing, planning, and policy.

Results

Based on the findings and review of best practices, Delcan made 22 recommendations addressing strategic planning, programming, regional governance, performance-based management, project prioritization, capacity enhancements, operations, demand management, congestion pricing, incident response, and private finance. Selected near-term actions could reduce traffic delays by 15% to 20%, saving the average commuter approximately ten hours of travel time each year. Additional benefits could come from reduced emissions and economic gains by improved access to jobs and employees.