

Building the Economy: Infrastructure Needs in Washington

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Update

#BuildWA

Strong economies and livable communities are built on infrastructure. Washington State has a diverse economy—with significant technology, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, trade, and natural resource sectors benefiting rural, suburban, and urban communities. The state is home to 15 Fortune 500 companies and nearly 6,000 small businesses, and exports over \$79 billion in goods each year. Washington contributes well over \$300 billion annually to the United States economy, making the state a critical player in the nation's economic success.

However, increased infrastructure investment is needed to ensure continued success. Washington's total infrastructure needs are estimated to be over \$222 billion. This level of investment is estimated to create 706,000 to 777,000 jobs.*

Underinvestment in infrastructure can lead to increased costs, reduced income, reduced economic output, and firms looking for other places to do business

Despite record-breaking container shipping volumes and planned port expansions, the NW Seaport Alliance faces a \$14.3 billion gap in rail, road and harbor infrastructure needs to effectively move Washington's goods to export markets.



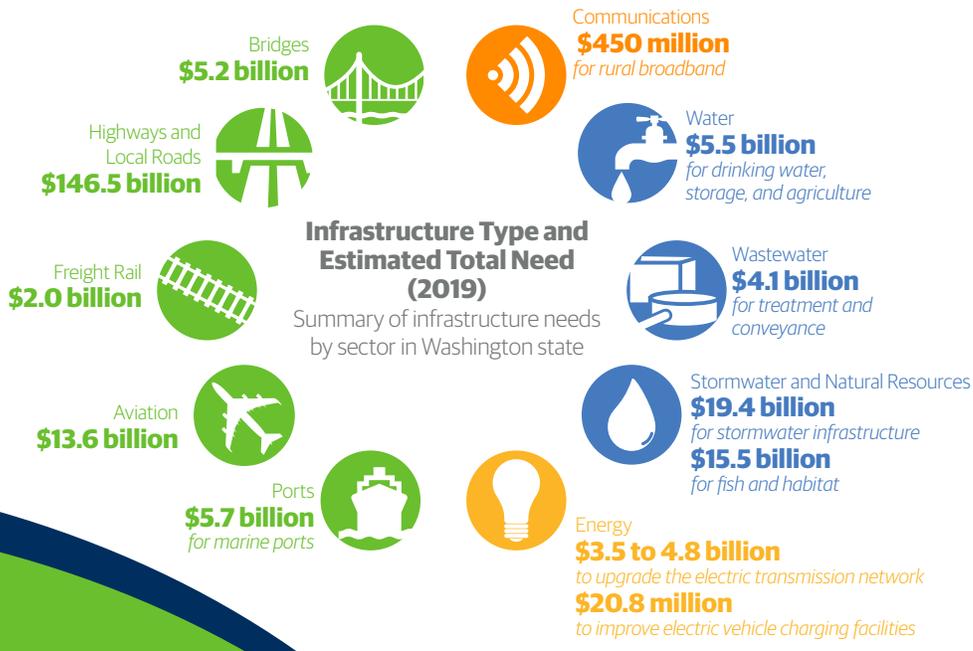
Source: NW Seaport Alliance

Activities of the ports of Seattle and Tacoma touch hundreds of thousands of jobs in Washington

Aging or obsolete infrastructure increases the cost of doing business and can cause serious economic disruption when systems fail.



The I-5 Skagit River bridge collapsed in 2013 in part due to its obsolete design



*These figures represent job-years, or one full time job for a full year.

- Infrastructure is the foundation of the state and national economy and quality of life—**investments should directly support the economy.**
- **Cities, counties, ports, and businesses are part of the solution**—local governments are on the front lines of infrastructure planning and development, essential to business growth.
- **Funding flexibility** maximizes efficiency and results.
- **Regulatory reform simplifies processes** and targets funding where it counts—lengthy, costly processes aren't always needed for low-risk projects.
- **Long-term and continuous investment** helps Washington and the nation grow—one-time investment packages help meet the most immediate need, but sustained investment is required to keep systems in working order.

What are the benefits?

Increased Trade

Communities and businesses around the world depend on trade in Washington—the state is a portal to the world for U.S. products. Infrastructure investment is essential to keeping goods moving to external markets.

- In 2015, Washington's ports handled \$73.5 billion in international two-way trade.
- The Northwest Seaport Alliance, composed of the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, is the third-largest exporting metro area in the United States.
- Freight-dependent industries have income of \$500+ billion in Washington.

Investing in Washington's infrastructure could create 706,000 to 777,000 direct and indirect jobs.



Business, Industry, and Job Growth

Infrastructure investment is a proven job-creator. Every dollar spent on infrastructure creates jobs, but the impact of spending doesn't stop there. Infrastructure promotes business expansion by reliably supporting day-to-day business and industry operations.



Building a Green Economy

A changing climate will require investments in more resilient infrastructure. To adapt, Washington is pursuing a "green economy" that focuses on sustainable energy use and production, as well as new clean and resource-efficient technologies. Washington is positioned to lead the way as a global leader in the new, green economy: the state boasts global corporations with access to worldwide markets and influence on supply chains.

Innovation

Cities, counties, ports, and public utility districts own and maintain vast road, transit, water, stormwater, and wastewater networks that turn the wheels of commerce. When businesses don't need to worry about running water, electricity, and good roads, they are more likely to expand and devote resources to innovation. On the other hand, when these basic systems become unreliable, they start looking for other places to do business.



By 2040, Washington is expected to grow by an additional **2 million people**

Ready for the Future

Washington is poised for growth. With millions of new residents expected in coming years, in addition to major increases in trade, renewable energy, manufacturing, technology, and agriculture, resources for improving the state's infrastructure are essential.

Washington is ready to deliver.