



SCOG 
Skagit Council of Governments

Annual Report 2018

About Skagit Council of Governments



Since 1968, Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) has existed as a voluntary organization of local governments and regional planning resource. In this capacity, SCOG connects Skagit County's leaders to build a stronger region.

As both the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the Skagit region, SCOG coordinates transportation decision making and policy development.

SCOG engages its fifteen member governments, partners, stakeholders, and the community in developing long-term solutions for the region's challenges.

The legislature finds that addressing public initiatives regarding transportation and comprehensive planning necessitates an innovative approach. Improved integration...is considered by the state to be imperative, and to have significant benefit to the citizens of Washington.

RCW 47.80.011

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Member Agencies





Town of Lyman

Town of Hamilton

Town of Concrete

County
Skagit County

State
Washington State
Department of Transportation

Transit
Skagit Transit

Special Districts
Skagit PUD #1



Director's Message

As a regional council of governments in Skagit County, Washington, SCOG helps make the region an extraordinary place to live, work and play. SCOG fosters the region's livability through collaborative, informed planning. It carries out regionally focused plans and studies on topics such as transportation, and growth management. Transportation challenges often reach beyond the boundaries of individual jurisdictions. Skagit Council of Governments members work together as a unified region to develop strategic plans for better roads, bridges, trails, buses, railroads and airports. SCOG establishes transportation priorities that support our region's economic prosperity and quality of life.

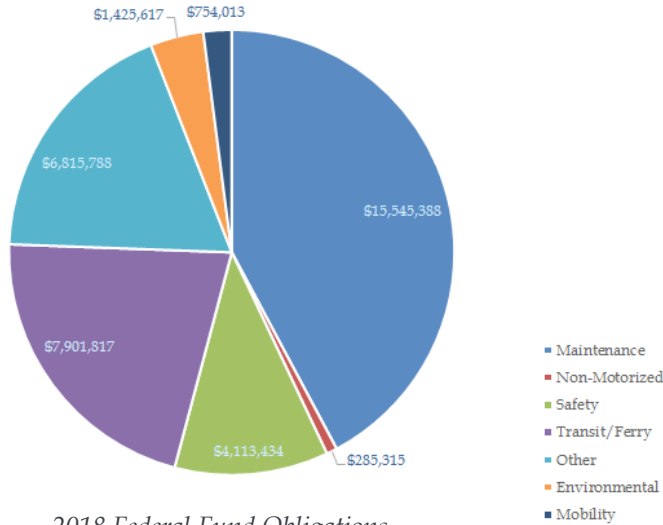
SCOG also provides a forum for discussion and information regarding the region and its emerging planning issues such as housing. Regional statistics, trends, analyses, and maps provide a basis for planning and decision-making on both the regional and local levels.

At SCOG, we strive to provide decision makers with meaningful objective information on these emerging issues so we can make reasonable and thoughtful decisions. Regional coordination and collaboration is key to ensuring our region continues to be an extraordinary place.



Kevin Murphy
Executive Director

2018 in Transportation



2018 Federal Fund Obligations
by Project Type

\$36,841,372 in federal funds were obligated for transportation projects

\$517,803 in grant funds were returned to state and federal governments

+8% Skagit Transit Ridership increase from 2017 to 2018

+6.6% Fixed Route Ridership

+22.9% Commuter Bus Ridership

+ 2.1% Vanpool Ridership

+ 4.4% Paratransit Ridership

In 2018, 12 Projects Obligated \$3,876,430 in Regional Funds:

Mount Vernon: College Way SR 538 @ I-5

Sedro-Woolley: SR 20/SR 9 Township Intersection Improvements, SR 20/Cascade Trail West Extension Phase 2A, Jones/John Liner/Trail Road Corridor Scoping Study

Skagit County: Centennial Trail (Big Rock to Clear Lake), Francis Road Reconstruction Section 1, Francis Road Section 3

Skagit Transit: FTA Transfer: Bus stop PE&D Standards, FTA Transfer: Bus Shelter Purchases, FTA Transfer: Bus Stop Re-Construction Upgrades

SCOG: SCOG Administration SFY 2019, Household Travel Survey



Mobility for All Modes

Skagit Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

SCOG adopted this updated Plan and prioritized projects for funding through the WSDOT Consolidated Block Grant program.

Highest prioritized strategies in the Plan include sustaining and expanding our existing regional services.

2018 Skagit County Bike Map

The Skagit County Bike Map was updated for 2018, reflecting updated regional bike routes and bicycle navigation for transportation improvements.

40,000 maps were printed and continue to be distributed across Skagit County and beyond.

The Bike Map remains a popular resource for local cyclists and visitors.

Household Travel Survey

Funds for a new survey were obligated in 2018, and the survey is expected to be complete by 2020.

This will be the first household travel survey conducted in the Skagit region since 2008. SCOG will use data from the survey to understand trends in trip behavior, update its travel demand model, and inform future planning efforts.

A mobile society means that citizens are able to freely travel to goods, services, and destinations across different transportation modes. Mobility creates access to employment and schools, healthcare, recreation, cultural institutions, and friends and family.

Mobility is identified as one of the six regional priorities, along with economic vitality, preservation, safety, environment, and stewardship. Above are a few of the ways in which SCOG has planned for mobility in 2018.



Growth Management

During 2018, Skagit Council of Governments continued to provide administrative support to the Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC) and its Technical Advisory Committee (GMATAC).

Skagit County and its cities and towns must plan for anticipated population growth under the Washington state Growth Management Act (GMA).

The 2002 Framework Agreement, executed by Skagit County along with cities and towns, addresses the collaborative requirement for planning at the regional level through GMA, and establishes the GMASC as the regional planning organization for this process. The Steering Committee develops recommendations for Countywide Planning Policies, urban growth areas, and allocations of population and employment for use in local comprehensive planning.

In 2018, the Town of Lyman joined the Framework Agreement; the Agreement is now signed on to by all Skagit cities and towns.

It is the purpose of this Agreement *to enhance the ability of the parties to improve the present health, safety, convenience and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the Cities and the County
to the end that the governments achieve a county-wide pattern of community-building, land-use, and conservation
that reflects the environmental, economic, aesthetic, and social values of city and county residents.*

- 2002 Framework Agreement

2018 in Growth Management

Growth Monitoring Program

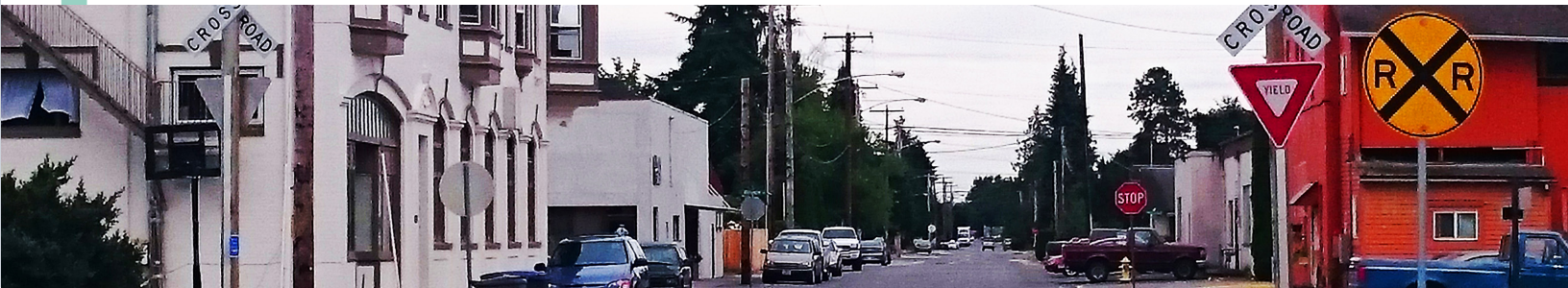
SCOG has built capacity for growth management countywide by conducting the analysis for the 2018 Growth Monitoring Report. This year's report included two new sections on regional five-county and affordable housing estimates.

2002 Framework Agreement Workshop

Growth Management Act Steering Committee members attended a workshop alongside Technical Advisory Committee members to better coordinate decision-making under the 2002 Framework Agreement.

Ongoing Research and Support

SCOG continues to provide support for growth management across the region by conducting independent research on issues related to housing, population growth, migration, employment, and other regional trends.



WELCOME TO

SKAGIT VALLEY



Looking Forward: 2019

Transportation

Set Regional Performance Targets.....

SCOG will continue to monitor and set regional performance targets in cooperation with Skagit Transit and WSDOT.

Begin Skagit Household Travel Survey

SCOG will hire a consultant to conduct the next Skagit Household Travel Survey. The survey will study regional travel behavior and public sentiment for transportation investments.

Select Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Projects

SCOG will work with local jurisdictions to evaluate transportation projects and select projects for funding through the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program.

Growth Management

Growth Monitoring Program.....

SCOG will analyze population, employment, and housing data for the third Growth Monitoring Report.

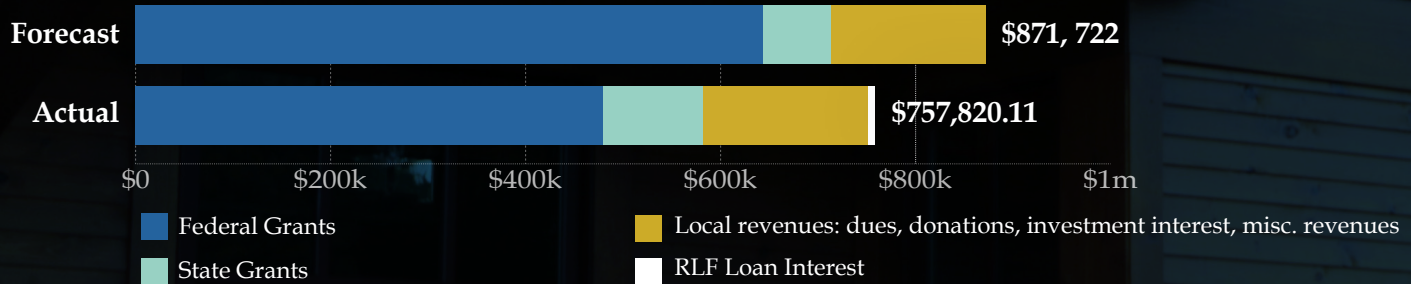
Countywide Planning Policies.....

SCOG will work with the GMA Technical Advisory Committee and Steering Committee to clean up existing references in the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). No new policy direction or substantial changes to the CPPs will be considered.

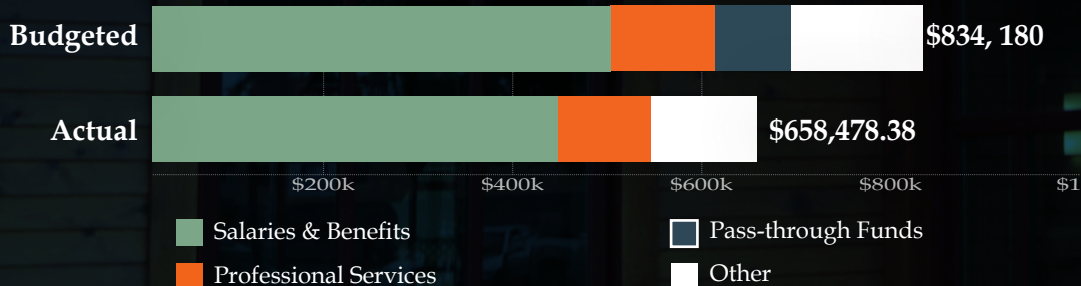
The Revolving Loan Fund program came to a close in 2018, having saved or created over 1,800 jobs in the Skagit Region between 1985 and 2017. In the past year, SCOG officially closed out all RLF accounts and transferred remaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assets to Skagit County. The RLF program has been transferred to the National Development Council, and the transfer has allowed the Council to expand its economic development resources to the Skagit area.

SCOG 2018 Operating Budget

Revenue by Funding Source

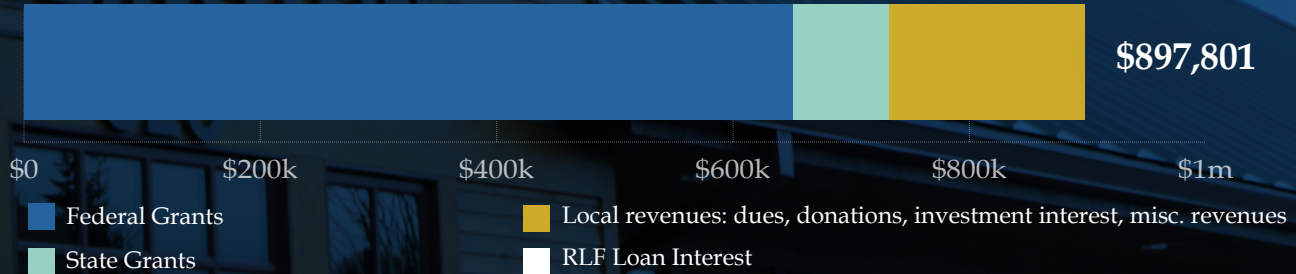


Expenses by Activity

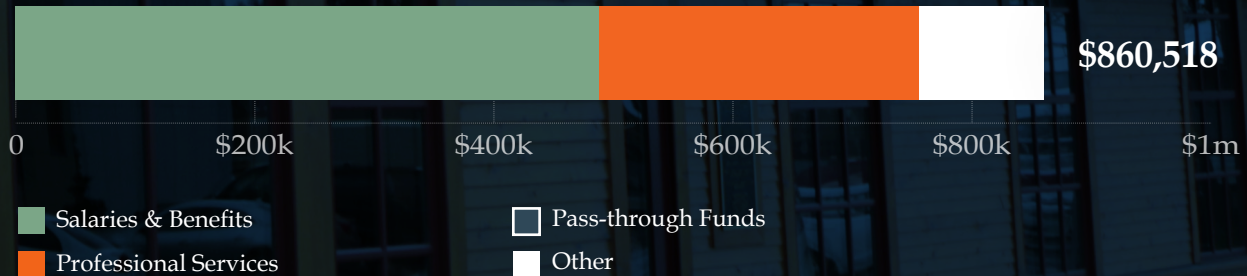


2019 Budget

Forecasted Revenue



Budgeted Expenses





SCOG

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*Integrating decision making
in Skagit County
through regional planning*

Photo courtesy Andy Porter Photography