

Whittier Moves Transportation Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions

State / Federal Project No.: HFHWY00314/2000047
FAQ Last Updated September 2025



Q: What is the Whittier Moves Transportation Master Plan?

A: The Whittier Moves Transportation Master Plan (Whittier Moves) will identify future transportation investments that support land use and movement patterns by coordinating transportation planning and project development within and around the City of Whittier. The plan will be developed in coordination with stakeholders and the public to foster collaboration, creating a cohesive and agile transportation planning document. Whittier Moves will serve as a tool for securing discretionary grant funding, supporting other project development opportunities, and assisting the City of Whittier in the update of their Comprehensive Master Plan.

Q: What groups, agencies, and corporations are involved in the planning process?

A: The plan will be developed by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in close coordination with the City of Whittier. Input will also be gathered from a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, visitors, local businesses, corporations, and agencies operating in Whittier.

Q: What is Transportation Master Planning?

A: Transportation Master Planning is about setting a long-term vision for how a community's transportation system should grow and improve. It looks at community needs, gathers input, and helps guide decisions for the future.

Transportation Master Planning is...	Transportation Master Planning is not...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A long-term vision for how a community's transportation system should grow and improve.• A process that gathers input from residents, businesses, and stakeholders.• A way to identify priorities (safety, access, connectivity, economic growth, environmental concerns).• A coordinated framework that guides future funding, design, and policy decisions.• A tool to balance needs for all users: drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, transit, freight.• A plan that can be updated based on community input and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A construction plan with specific projects ready to build right away.• A plan created behind closed doors without community involvement.• A guarantee that every idea or project will be funded and built.• A short-term "to-do list" for maintenance or quick fixes.• A plan focused only on one mode of travel.



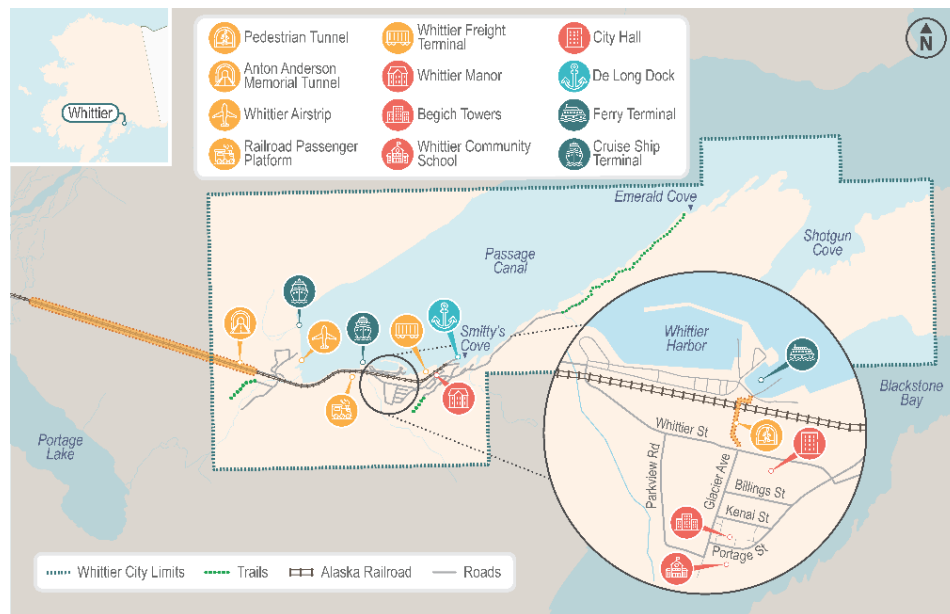
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Q: What is the planning area?

A: The planning area is the City of Whittier, but the plan looks beyond city limits to consider everyone who relies on Whittier's transportation system. This includes residents, commuting workers, business owners, freight operators, visitors, and tourists. It also accounts for seasonal users such as cruise ship passengers, ferry users, and recreational travelers, as well as the needs of emergency services and regional connections.



Q: What are the objectives of Whittier Moves?

A: The objectives of this Master Plan are:

- **Establish a transportation vision:** Define a clear and compelling vision for Whittier's future transportation system that aligns with the City's strategic goals and future land use.
- **Identify incremental improvements:** Outline specific improvement projects that support future usage needs and improve movement to and between the various activities within the City of Whittier.
- **Incorporate stakeholder input:** Incorporate a plan that actively gathers and uses feedback from a broad range of stakeholders and the public.
- **Explore funding options:** Identify and evaluate innovative funding opportunities to support the realization of transportation improvements.



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- **Practical implementation:** Provide an actionable plan that remains relevant and usable, with the use of short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5 years and beyond) timescales.
- **Promote multimodal transportation and intermodal connectivity:** Create a plan that identifies and improves multimodal transportation and intermodal connectivity for the wide range of users.

Q: What is the anticipated schedule?

A: Whittier Moves will be developed over the course of 2025 and 2026. The timeline below shows the major tasks and anticipated completion dates.

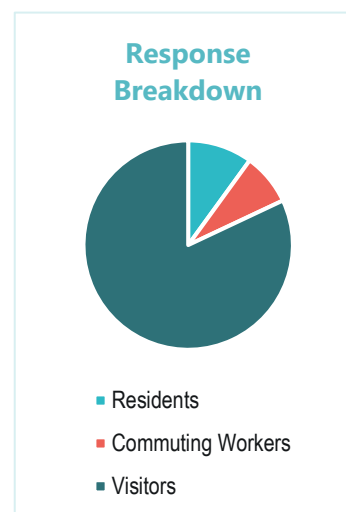
Task Name	Anticipated Completion					
	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
Public Involvement						
Data Collection and Analysis						
Existing Conditions						
Needs Analysis - Traffic Analysis and Project Prioritization						
Project Recommendations and Implementation - Cost Estimates and Final Master Plan						

Q: How has the planning team engaged with the community so far?

A: Engagement efforts so far have included:

- Pop-up information booths (July 16)
 - Head of the Bay Cruise Ship Dock
 - Whittier Harbor
 - Begich Towers
 - Cliffside Marina Cruise Ship Dock
- Online survey (July 15 - 31), which received 448 responses
 - 45 resident responses
 - 36 commuter responses
 - 367 visitor responses

Summaries of engagement events can be found on the website at www.WhittierMoves.com



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Q: Will Whittier Moves address the airstrip and aviation access?

A: Aviation access is an important consideration in the Whittier Moves planning process. Because multimodal transportation and intermodal connectivity are core objectives of the plan, feedback about the airstrip helps highlight its role in Whittier's overall transportation system and may help position it for future funding and improvements. That said, this plan is not focused specifically on relocating or redesigning the airstrip. A more detailed review of the Whittier airport will be conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the DOT&PF as part of the upcoming Prince William Sound Area Plan update, which will examine how to keep the airport operational and identify potential improvements.

Q: Will tunnel schedules and fares be changed?

A: The Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel is Whittier's only road connection, making it uniquely important to residents, workers, and visitors. The tunnel is owned by the Alaska Railroad and operated by DOT&PF, who is responsible for setting schedules and fares, not the Whittier Moves plan directly. While this plan cannot directly change tunnel operations, it can document community feedback and highlight how tunnel access affects Whittier's transportation system. That input may help inform future discussions with DOT&PF about schedules, fares, and their impacts.

Q: Will Whittier Moves address land ownership challenges?

A: Land ownership is a significant factor in Whittier's growth and development, since much of the land is held by the Alaska Railroad and other entities. While the Whittier Moves plan cannot directly change who owns the land, it can document these challenges and highlight how land ownership affects transportation, access, and community development. The City of Whittier is actively working to pursue opportunities for acquiring land from the Alaska Railroad to support local priorities. Feedback gathered through this planning process will help demonstrate how land ownership influences future transportation projects and community needs.

Q: Will issues like road and sidewalk maintenance, parking areas, or snow removal be addressed by Whittier Moves?

A: Yes. These and similar concerns have been raised through stakeholder and public input and will be considered in the Master Plan. The plan will include recommendations related to transportation issues such as maintenance, parking, and snow removal. While these recommendations are not guarantees or a short-term "to-do" list, they will help reflect community needs and guide future decisions.



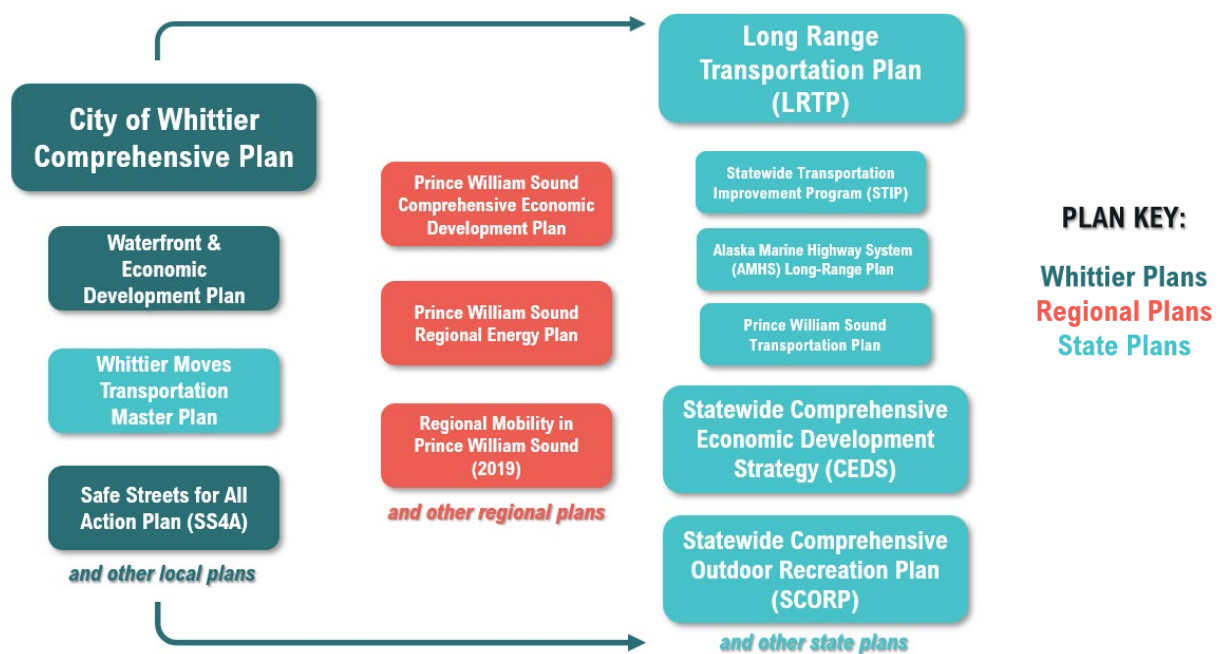
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Q: How does Whittier Moves interact with other local, regional, and state plans?

A: Whittier Moves is part of a larger family of plans that work together at the local, regional, and state levels. This Transportation Master Plan both informs and is informed by these efforts, helping to coordinate priorities and guide future decisions. Because planning efforts shape funding decisions, aligning Whittier Moves with other plans is an important step toward positioning projects for funding and eventual implementation.



Q: Will Whittier Moves propose any projects?

A: The plan will identify and recommend potential projects, but each will undergo a comprehensive evaluation process before moving forward. Public input is central to shaping these recommendations, so they reflect the community's priorities and needs. Proposed projects must also align with broader planning documents. In addition, factors such as safety, user experience, environmental considerations, funding eligibility, maintenance needs, project readiness, and community support will all play an important role in determining which projects are included.

Q: How can I find out more information and be involved in the planning process?

A: Feedback is welcome at any time until the plan is complete. To learn more, share comments with the planning team, or sign up for updates, visit www.WhittierMoves.com or email WhittierMoves@dowl.com

