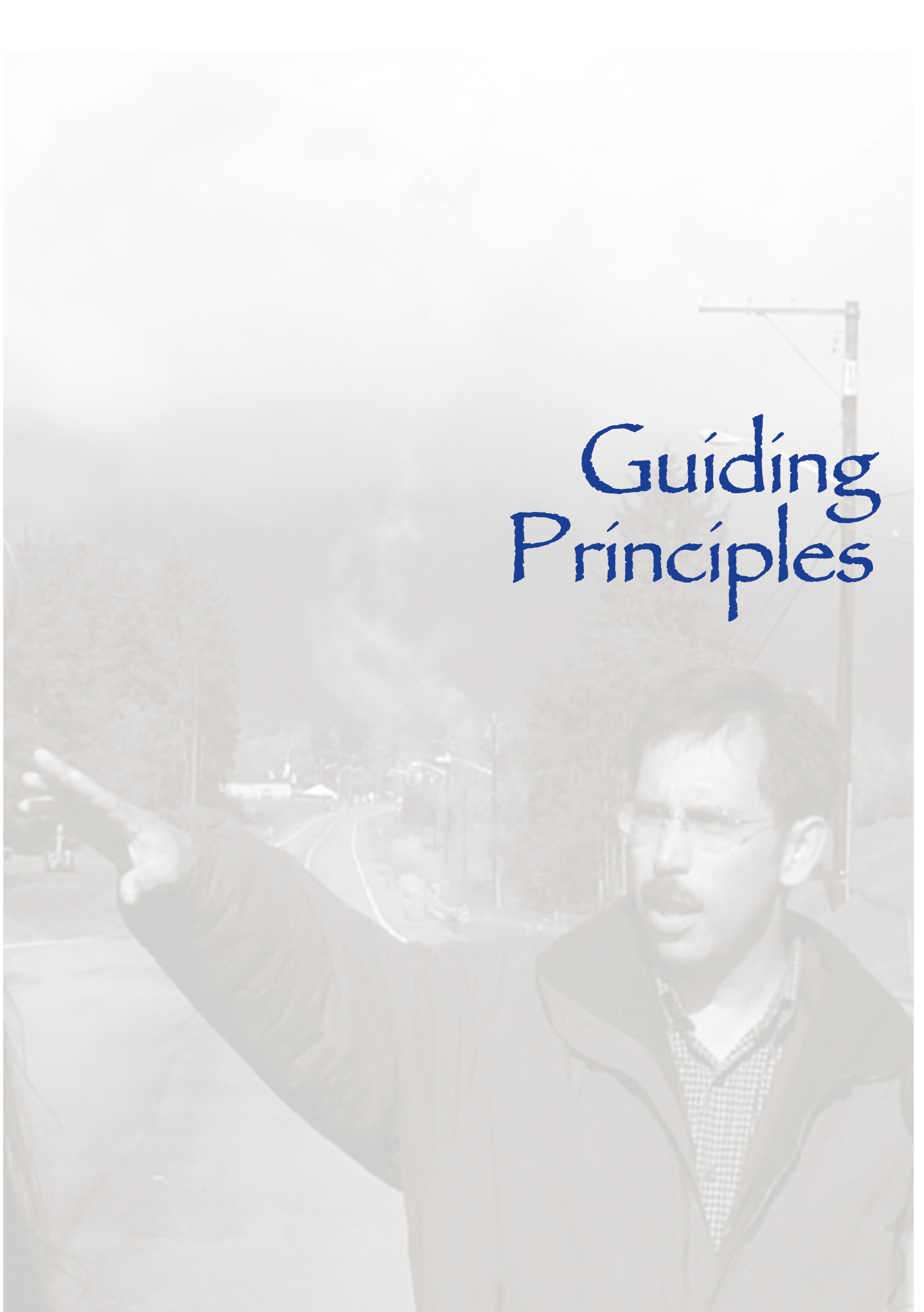


Guiding Principles



Guiding Principles

A Regional Foundation of Shared Values

Previous regional plans used a single vision to provide structure and context for policies and recommendations. Over the years, the region found it harder and harder to communicate those over-arching values in a vision statement. A single vision could not adequately speak to the diversity found in this region’s rural, suburban, and urban communities. Something different was needed, something that was “true” but which respected that diversity. That led to development of Guiding Principles for the 2025 RTP.

Guiding Principles – An Overview

The 2025 Regional Transportation Plan is founded on essential values that are true throughout the region, even if their expression may differ between city and town, port and transit, tribe and state, urban and rural.

Drawn from visions described in the region’s 2010 and 2020 plans, these principles embrace the interdependent relationship between transportation and land use. They reflect the need for a balance among safety, mobility, community, and environmental goals. They acknowledge the need for cost-effective solutions. They assume knowledgeable and on-going involvement of citizens and active participation by all affected agencies and communities. These principles guide the region toward a transportation system that meets the evolving needs of residents and businesses with safe, affordable, sensible choices.

Sometimes these principles may seem to contradict each other. In fact, as the region’s policy makers observed, individual projects or programs will rarely comply fully with all the values that guide local and regional decision-making. Instead transportation issues, choices, and consequences must be weighed against the full range of principles to choose the best alternative. No single value will always overshadow the rest. Effective transportation decisions must be sensitive to all aspects of individual and government situations, functions and constraints.

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles for the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan

To develop a transportation system that offers safe, efficient, affordable travel choices for people and goods, while supporting land use plans and long-term quality of life objectives, transportation decisions and investments will be:

Supportive:

This means:

- Reflecting adopted community goals and plans.
- Integrating transportation and land use decision-making processes.
- Increasing viable, affordable travel choices for people and goods.
- Moving people efficiently and cost-effectively among diverse destinations.
- Improving access for all people, regardless of age, ability or income.
- Promoting local economies without compromising other core values.
- Making investments that contribute to a community's overall sense of place.
- Complying with Growth Management Act requirements.
- Complying with all other state and federal requirements.

Responsive:

This means:

- Revising direction as necessary to adapt to changing situations or objectives.
- Initiating timely response as substantive issues evolve.
- Providing pragmatic, visionary leadership that maximizes future opportunities while recognizing today's realities.

Fiscally Responsible:

This means:

- Making cost-effective investments that result in best value solutions for the community.
- Ensuring system funding is equitable.
- Being realistic about financial capacity and prioritizing accordingly.

These Guiding Principles are reflected throughout the Goals and Policies in Chapter 3. They apply to the system and its needs, regardless of mode or geographic location.

Guiding Principles

- Maintaining existing investments.
- Supporting efficient use of transportation resources and facilities.
- Evaluating the full cost of alternatives and recommendations.

Safety Conscious:

This means:

- Making the system safer for all users.
- Designing facilities that are appropriate to their intended use and location.
- Building redundancy into critical network links as emergency safeguards.

Environmentally Sensitive:

This means:

- Minimizing impacts on air and water quality, and natural habitat and resources.
- Minimizing or mitigating impacts on neighborhoods.
- Making investments that add lasting value to our communities and their overall function.

Collaborative:

This means:

- Fostering on-going and inclusive community involvement and education.
- Ensuring affected parties understand issues related to choices, impacts, and timing.
- Promoting coordination among local, regional, tribal, state, and federal authorities.
- Coordinating with neighboring regions to identify workable strategies that ensure cross-regional consistency.