

# DRAFT Recommendation Regarding CTR Plan Updates for 2023-2027

Proposed for initial presentation to the TDM Technical Committee, August 1, 2022

Decision to follow at the TDM Technical Committee, September 12, 2022

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## WSDOT staff recommend that the TDM Technical Committee ask:

- WSDOT staff to draft exemption language so that cities, counties, regions, and the state will not be required to submit updated CTR plans by June 2023.
- WSDOT staff, CTR implementers and other stakeholders to develop an approach and timeline for CTR Plan updates that considers the factors listed below. The approach and timeline would be brought back to the TDM Technical Committee before the end of 2022 for consideration.

## Factors informing recommendation

Why change the schedule?

- This planning work will be more complex and in-depth than planning work done since the mid-2000s.
- The pandemic has changed commute behaviors in an unprecedented way and introduced uncertainty to the future direction of commuting and traffic patterns.
- The CTR program will need to adapt to the Move Ahead Washington transportation package and its likely effects on state CTR funding. This package indicates legislative intent and a funding source to increase CTR funding during 2023-2039. In addition, it includes new requirements to address the needs of vulnerable populations, overburdened communities, and tribes.
- We need to revisit the CTR funding formula and funding allocations, which have been static since 2011. Change may be needed, for example, to allow jurisdictions to opt into the program, to update factors or data used in the existing funding formula (number of major worksites, number of trips reduced, base funding, etc.), or introduce new factors.
- CTR program implementers at all levels are struggling to retain, recruit, and train staff to deliver the ongoing program. Adding the intensive planning and stakeholder engagement that will be needed to do a thorough update of CTR plans is not feasible.
- CTR program implementers will gather new baseline travel behavior data during the 2023-2025 survey cycle. This data will reflect not only changes in travel behavior, but also changes in survey methodology and system. This will preclude comparison of the new data with data and data trends prior to 2023.

## Background

- CTR plans have not been substantively updated since 2015. The 2015 update was pro-forma.
- All levels (city, county, region and state) are required by law to update CTR plans every four years. Without an exemption from the TDM Technical Committee, plans will be due June 2023. The TDM Technical Committee exempted 2019-2023 plan updates.

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