

4.1.2 **Developing and Implementing a project requiring collaboration to succeed**

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GIS projects can require a high level of collaboration and yet creating successful collaborations can be very difficult. An active project has been successful to date in establishing and maintaining a collaborative environment. The Washington Transportation Framework for GIS Project (WA-Trans) goal is to develop and maintain a statewide transportation dataset for use in Geographic Information Systems across the state. This project is committed to developing this information collaboratively using data from the local, tribal, state and federal providers with the best data available. Led by the Washington State Department of Transportation, this project has established a partnership of 11 state agencies, 24 counties, 10 cities, 9 tribal nations, 4 regional planning offices, 4 transit organizations and others. Decision making has been done by a representative steering committee developed from this group and pilots are led by a team of collaborators. This effort has led to several useful lessons learned and strategies developed in leading and participating in collaborative projects which are creating an environment that promotes success and mutual benefits.