CHAPTER 2: EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Squaxin Island Tribe transportation system is *multi-modal* with tribal and non-tribal routes and elements that address a variety of special *issues*.

**Modes**

*Please reference the attachments for more details, especially the inventories.*

1. **Aviation**

Squaxin uses primarily Seatac (northeast of Kamilche) and Portland (south of Kamilche) International Airports for passenger and freight air transportation. Local airports are Sanderson Field (Shelton airport, north of Kamilche) and Olympia Regional Airport (east of Kamilche); both have lots of potential for passenger and freight use.

2. **Freight**

Squaxin uses freight trucks primarily with Island Enterprises, Inc. (for business, service, and development purposes), then with tribal government (for service and development purposes), then with the Little Creek Casino Resort (for service purposes). State highways are the main freight/truck routes for the Olympic Peninsula and the Squaxin island Tribe, including Squaxin’s primary State Route, SR101 from Olympia through Shelton, as well as SR108 (from Kamilche to McCleary), SR3 (from SR101 through Shelton to Harstine Island), and SR8 (from McCleary to Elma).

3. **Marine**

South Puget Sound and its watersheds include Squaxin’s traditional and contemporary waterways with many points of access. The waterway is used in exercising treaty fishing and gathering rights, Canoe Journey travel, recreational travel, and in tribal member and tribal enterprises (i.e. Salish Seafoods, Kamilche Adventures). Squaxin Island is only accessible by water, by permit. Squaxin boat ramps include Arcadia (northeast of Kamilche, Squaxin owned), Latimer’s Landing (north of Kamiche), Allyn (north of Kamilche), and Boston Harbor (east of Kamilche in Thurston County).

4. **Motorized**

The BIA Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program has trust responsibility for Squaxin transportation based on treaty and self-determination agreements with the Squaxin Island Tribe. They focus on roads & bridges, safety, maintenance, economic development. According to 25 CFR Part 170, the purpose of the long-range transportation plan (LRTP) is to clearly demonstrate the tribe’s transportation needs and to fulfill tribal goals by developing strategies to meet these needs. LRTP strategies should address: 1) future land use, 2) economic development, 3) traffic demand, 4) public safety, and 4) health and social needs. The LRTP time horizon should be 20 years to match state transportation planning horizons. Per 170.412, the tribe should fulfill minimum LRTP requirements:
area and reservation maps, basic inventory, priority lists, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), resolution, cover letter, and public involvement.

Squaxin coordinates with other jurisdictions to manage motorized and non-motorized transportation projects, particularly with Mason County Public Works and WSDOT Olympic Region.

Roads

**Tribal Roads.** For more details see Attachment, Inventories/Priority Lists/TIPs. NOTE: * means the road name is unofficial. + means the road is a BIA IRR route in the BIA IRR inventory.

1. Child Development Center Dr*. Located in the Transition Area off the south side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the Squaxin Island Child Development Center.
2. Education Center Dr+*. Located in the Government Area, this road originally serviced the Tribal Center, and now serves the Education Center.
3. Elders Center Dr++. Located in the Government Area, this road is part of the Tu Ha'Buts Cultural Center master plan, originally built for the elders/preschool, museum, and administration buildings, the road currently serves the same buildings, but the Intergenerational Center is now the Elders Center.
4. Family Services Center Dr*. Located in the Government Area, this road serves the mental health and family services offices as well as the natural resources offices (until they move to the NCR Building)
5. Fire Station Dr*. Located in the Transition Area off the north side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the fire station.
6. Health Center Dr++. Located in the Government Area, this road serves the health clinic and health promotions offices.
7. Intertribal Professional Center Dr++*. Located in the Transition Area off the north side of Old Olympic Highway, this is the access road for the Intertribal Professional Center, also called the SPIPA Building.
8. Island Enterprises Dr*. Located in the Transition Area off the south side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the enterprises headquarters.
10. Kamilche Trading Post Lp*. Located in the Commercial Area, this road serves the Kamilche Trading Post and the Kamilche Visitor Center.
11. Kaya Cir++. Klah-Che-Min Village housing road servicing the elders housing units.
12. Klah-Che-Min Dr+. Located in the Housing and Government Areas, this is the main road, a residential collector, between Old Olympic Highway and Bloomfield Rd through the reservation.
14. Kwuh-Deegs-Altxw Dr+. Located in the Government Area, this is the second tribal road built with BIA IRR funds and serves the tribal museum.
15. Legal Center Dr*. Located in the Transition Area off the south side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the legal offices.
16. Little Creek Casino Resort Rd++. Located in the Commercial Area, this road serves the Little Creek Casino Resort.
17. NW Indian Treatment Center Dr*. Access road to the Northwest Indian Treatment Center in Elma.
18. Old Treatment Plant Dr++. Located in the Government Area, this gravel road serves the old wastewater treatment plant.
19. Out-Patient Treatment Center Dr*. Located in the Transition Area off the north side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the out-patient treatment program offices.
20. Proposed Canoe Shed Dr*. To be located in the Government Area, this is a service road for the Carving Center. Design is partially complete.
21. Proposed NCR Building Dr*. To be located in the Transition Area off the north side of Old Olympic Highway, this road serves the proposed Natural Resources/Cultural Resources Building. Design is partially complete.
22. Proposed Salish Cliffs roads*. To be located in the Commercial Area south of SR108, this road serves proposed Salish Cliffs enterprises.
23. Proposed Salish Highlands roads*. To be located in the Commercial Area north of SR108, this road serves proposed enterprises.
24. Proposed Slocum Ridge 3 roads*. To be located in the Housing Area, this section of gravel road to the new cemetery and new non-low income housing area is marginally serviceable for the cemetery and will be further developed.
25. Qua-T’a-Sat Cir+. Kamilche Village housing road.
27. Salish Seafood Dr+. Access road to Salish Seafoods on Harstine Island.
30. Skookum Creek Tobacco Dr+. Located in the Industrial Area, this road serves businesses including Skookum Creek Tobacco and Skookum Creek Distribution.
32. Squaxin Ln+. Located in the Government Area, this road is the first tribal road built with BIA IRR funds (older roads were built by HUD). It was originally built for the Tribal Center and now serves the Education Center.
34. Steh-Chass Pl+. Kamilche Village housing road.
35. T-Peeksin Ln+. Kamilche Village housing road.
36. Transit Hub Lp+. Located in the Commercial Area, this road serves the transit hub connecting Mason Transit and Squaxin Transit and the Park & Ride lot.

**Non-Tribal Roads.** For more details see Attachment, Inventories/Priority Lists/TIPs.

NOTE: * means the road name is unofficial. + means the road is a BIA IRR route in the BIA IRR inventory.

1. Agate Rd+. Mason County road used to access Church Point, a culturally significant site where Squaxin and Shaker Religion Founder John Slocum lived.
2. Bloomfield Rd+. Mason County road sections from Old Olympic Highway to the Klah-Che-Min Drive, used to access Old Olympic Highway.
3. Chapman Rd+. This Mason County road section is used to access Squaxin’s reservation land on Harstine Island and is the official address of Salish Seafoods (92 E Chapman Rd).
4. Harstine Bridge Rd+. The Mason County road used to access Squaxin’s reservation land on Harstine Island and Salish Seafoods, a Squaxin enterprise.
5. Hurley Waldrop Rd. Mason County road sections east and west of SR101, used for Kennedy Creek and SR101 access.
6. Kamilche Ln+. Mason County road sections between Old Olympic Highway and the railroad tracks, used to access tribal member housing.
7. Lighthouse Rd+. Mason County road used to access Church Point, a culturally significant site where Squaxin and Shaker Religion Founder John Slocum lived.
8. Lynch Rd+. Mason County road sections between SR101 in Taylortown and Squaxin’s boat ramp in Arcadia, used to access the Arcadia boat ramp. One road section is a spur that ends at the boat ramp.
10. Sexton Dr NW. Thurston County road used to access Squaxin’s reservation land off Steamboat Island Rd.
11. Pickering Rd+. Mason County road used to access Squaxin’s reservation land on Harstine Island.
12. Simmons Rd. Mason County road sections that includes a proposed frontage road between Old Olympic Highway and Lynch Road, a SR101 bypass if traveling between Kamilche and the Arcadia boat ramp.
13. S Island Dr. Mason County road that leads to Squaxin’s reservation land on Harstine Island.
14. State Route 101+. State road sections between the Mason General Hospital exit and the Steamboat Island Road exit, the road between Mason County/Kamilche and Thurston County reservation areas, used as the primary access to all off-reservation needs.
15. State Route 108+. State road sections between Kamilche and McCleary, used to access Squaxin’s Northwest Indian Treatment Center in Elma.
16. State Route 3+. State road sections between SR101 and the exit to Harstine Island, used to access Squaxin’s Northwest Indian Treatment Center in Elma.
17. State Route 8+. State road sections between McCleary and Elma, used to access Squaxin’s Northwest Indian Treatment Center in Elma.
18. Steamboat Island Rd+. Mason County road sections between SR101 and Squaxin’s Thurston County reservation land, used to access tribal member housing and Kamilche Trading Post 2, a Squaxin enterprise.
19. Whitener Rd. Mason County road section used to access Skookum Creek and tribal member housing.

**Bridges**

There are several tribal bridges to be included in the BIA IRR inventory and included in a later LRTP update as a high priority for tribal inspection and maintenance purposes. There are many non-tribal bridges within the Squaxin transportation system to be inventoried and included in a later LRTP update; these bridges are a lower priority since their owners inspect and maintain them.

**ORV Trails**

There are no official off-road vehicle (ORV) trails or areas on the reservation, but there are several unofficial ORV trails to be part of the inventory in the next LRTP update. The Capital State Forest is the closest and one of the most popular official ORV areas in Western Washington. There is no ORV development in place, but there is concern about ORV damage to the environment and ORV safety especially around youth, and an interest in an ORV area as a recreation attraction.

**5. Non-Motorized**

Non-motorized transportation mode will be inventoried and included in a later LRTP update. Inventories, priority lists, and TIPs have some overlapping components between non-motorized and motorized modes of transportation. The non-motorized mode addresses pedestrian amenities and non-motorized transit.

**Pedestrian amenities.**
- Lighting. To increase visibility, lighting is included in master planning and development whenever possible, with attention paid to low-impact designs that minimize light pollution.
- Signage and pavement markings. To provide direction, signage and pavement markings are added whenever possible, utilizing standards that maximize traffic safety.
- Fencing. To control access toward safe routes, fencing is added whenever necessary.
- Traffic calming devices. To increase safe driving behavior, traffic calming devices (i.e. speed tables, bulb-outs, textured concrete, crosswalk flashers) are added to transportation projects.
- Community awareness. To increase community awareness, traffic safety information and campaigns (i.e. seat belt, speed reduction, safety check, car seat campaigns) are available through a variety of Squaxin departments (i.e. Education, Health & Human Services, Public Safety & Justice, Housing) whenever possible.

**Non-motorized transit**
- Bicycle routes, bicycle amenities (i.e. bike lockers). Bike routes have not been designated, but bike/pedestrian amenities such as bike/ped lanes (wide shoulders) and sidewalks are added as roads are improved. Bike lockers have not been provided, but some people may be able to store their bike at/near their destination, if space is available.
- Bike/pedestrian lanes. Bike/pedestrian lanes are a low-cost way to increase mobility by extending the road shoulder to allow safe access for bicycle riders and pedestrians.
- Sidewalks. Low environmental impact ADA accessible sidewalks as separated from the roadbed with permeable surfacing if possible. Allow about 20% more cost for this additional environmental enhancement. They are included in master plans and developed as a high priority for livable, sustainable communities.
• Trails, pathways, greenways. ADA accessible off-road trails, pathways, and greenways to community facilities, housing, government, commercial, cultural, and natural areas are included in master plans and developed as a high priority for livable, sustainable communities.
• Equestrian trails. Some tribal members own horses and ride them within the Squaxin transportation service area. These trails will be addressed in the next LRTP update.

6. Rail

Freight rail. Squaxin has plans to utilize the private rail line that runs next to the Squaxin industrial area. A rail spur is being developed for the Squaxin industrial area as a public-private partnership. Freight/rail will be inventoried and included in a later LRTP update.

Passenger rail (i.e. light rail, commuter rail, long-distance rail). The Sounder is the closest light rail service with runs between Tacoma and Seattle in twenty-minute frequencies. The closest commuter rail service is available at the Olympia Amtrak station; the Cascades makes four runs a day between Seattle and Portland. The closest long-distance rail service is available at the Olympia Amtrak station; the Coast Starlight makes one run a day between Seattle and Los Angeles with connections from that run.

7. Transit

Definition: Transit (trānˈsīt, -zīt) n. 1. The act of passing over, across, or through; passage. 2a. Conveyance of people or goods from one place to another, especially on a local public transportation system. 2b. The system or vehicles used for such conveyance.

The Squaxin Island Tribe operates a bus service called Squaxin Transit Monday through Friday on and off the reservation with connections to Mason Transit and Grays Harbor Transit.

Deviated fixed route transit service. Squaxin Transit, a community public transportation service provider offers deviated fixed route service Monday through Friday in the Kamilche area of South Mason County, the Steamboat Island Road area of West Thurston County, and the Elma/McCleary area of East Grays Harbor County.

Squaxin Transit connections:
• Mason Transit, a regional public transit service serving the Mason County area, connecting with Squaxin Transit multiple times each day at the Kamilche Transit Hub.
• Intercity Transit, a regional public transit service serving the Thurston County area, connecting with Squaxin Transit indirectly through Mason Transit.
• Grays Harbor Transit, a regional public transit service serving the Grays Harbor County area, connecting with Squaxin Transit in McCleary.

Dial-A-Ride transit service. Squaxin Transit provides service to individuals within the Squaxin transportation service area who make arrangements ahead of time.

Demand-response transit service (i.e. on-call vans, cars, etc). Many Squaxin departments provide demand-response transit service. They may make arrangements with the private transit providers listed below.

Drug-alcohol testing. In 2007, random drug testing was 25% (vs 20% Squaxin actual) and alcohol was 10% (vs 0% Squaxin actual) under the FTA DA requirements. The process is currently inadequate to meet state and federal requirements.

Medicaid/Medicare. Paratransit Services is a private carrier and broker that is Washington State’s designated Medicaid/Medicare public transportation provider. Paratransit Services is currently under contract with Squaxin to provide Medicaid/Medicare for eligible clients.
Private carriers. Transpro, Capital Aeroporter, Coastal Transport of WA, and others offer a variety of services within the Squaxin transportation service area.

Rideshare programs (i.e. carpool). Squaxin doesn’t operate a ride share program, but Mason Transit and Intercity Transit operate programs within the Squaxin service area.

Other partners. Other partners include CTA-NW, CTAA, transit providers, Thurston Regional Planning Council (providing transit service for Nisqually and Chehalis Tribes), WSDOT Public Transportation, and the Regional Transportation Partners Coalition (regional transit).

Issues

Please reference the attachments for more details, especially the inventories.

1. Capacity (administrative)

The ability of a system to adequately meet its needs is directly related to its administrative capacity to plan, develop, operate, and evaluate its inputs and outputs, in this case its transportation infrastructure. The Squaxin Department of Planning/Community Development supports transportation system infrastructure as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation Output</th>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Minor Construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motorized (Roads/Bridges)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Motorized</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight/Rail</td>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aviation/Marine</td>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>Transit</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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The current Squaxin transportation system is served by a variety of part-time staff and management:

- Squaxin Transit: 2 drivers, other on-call drivers
- Health/Human Services*: 3 CHRs providing special medical/social transport
- Planning: 1 planner
- Support: Staff/management support (i.e. Finance, Legal, Information Services)
- Management: Transit and Public Works Managers, Planning/ Community Dev. Director
- Maintenance/preservation: 1-2 Public Works Technicians
- Traffic safety: 1-2 Officers on patrol at any one time
  * Another department.

As to stakeholder involvement, here is currently no current or on-going transportation advisory committee.

2. Capacity (funding)

The 2005-09 federal transportation funding act called SAFETEA-LU requires state-tribal coordination in order to be eligible for funding. TIPs are the primary coordination tools for priority projects.

Squaxin’s current transportation system funding base includes BIA-IRR shares (planning, maintenance, construction), tribal general revenue (all), WSDOT transit grants (operation, capital), FTA Tribal Transit and CTAA technical assistance transit grants (planning), and USDA RBEG grant (design). Past funding includes HUD-ICDBG, USDA loans, federal appropriations grants, WA-CTED grants, and BIA grants.

Competitive funding is available from many sources, but the total amount is insufficient to provide for good roadways (planning, construction, maintenance) on the reservations and beyond. The BIA funding levels have not
increased in ten years. Tribes do not want to compete with one another for projects, turning tribes against one another.

3. Capacity (infrastructure)

Capacity within the Squaxin transportation system infrastructure is a concern when congestion (bottlenecks and chokepoints) reduce the level of service. Congestion is evident in several places and at several times of the day within the Squaxin transportation system. For example, the SR101/SR8 and SR101/Kamilche interchanges are congested during the morning and afternoon commutes, the SR101/Black Lake Blvd interchange (is congested most of the time. Squaxin Transit is congested in the morning and afternoon Steamboat Island routes.

4. Climate change and sustainability

Climate change and sustainability is a concern as it impacts every aspect of life. Strategic planning in every department is addressing how to reduce its carbon footprint through and policies and procedures that reduce waste and pollution and low-impact development. For example, Squaxin offers paper, glass, and metal recycling for its housing residents and government workers through a recycling program and supports technology that reduces the need for hard copies (less paper consumed/wasted) and face-to-face meetings (less gasoline consumed, less auto emissions). A master plan is underway to develop a “green building” for the Squaxin Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Departments that will be a model for future development.

Plan and design the most universal, energy-efficient, cost-effective, and beneficial modes improvements first. Become aware of current expectations and make better non-motorized connections. Models include Olympia’s Neighborhoods Connections Plan, Olympia’s Walkable Neighborhoods project, and Intercity Transit’s Bicycle Commuter Contest. Design more compact, vital centers that restore transportation balance to lead healthier, happier lives with a higher quality of life. Encourage living closer to work, shopping, etc, walking, biking for practical and recreational reasons, using bicycles for longer trips around the area.

5. Community vitality

Native American health disparities. According to U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Disease Control, and Indian Health Service statistics (June 2005), obesity has become a major problem among Native Americans and is believed to be associated with poor diet and the rapid change from active to sedentary lifestyles. Most cases of diabetes among Native Americans are type 2, the most common form of the disease, which is associated with preventable risk factors such as obesity and inactivity.

- Diabetes increased 71% between 1990 and 1998 among Native Americans ages 35 years and younger.
- 40% of Native American children are overweight.
- Native American adults are 2.6 times more likely to have diabetes than are non-Hispanic whites.
- An estimated 34% of Native American males are overweight, compared with 24% of all American males.
- An estimated 40% of Native American females are overweight, compared with 25% of all American females.
- 60% of Native American females under 60 years of age are likely to be overweight or obese, compared with 55% of all American females.
- A quarter of Native Americans live in poverty.

Transportation affects community health and wellness in the ways goods and services are provided. For example, walking, biking, and transit are modes of transportation (every rider is a pedestrian or walker) that increases active lifestyles. Ride sharing increases active lifestyles since it involves building community relationships. The key is convenience and ease of use. People (the public) are most comfortable with single-use vehicles (high convenience and ease of use if available, but high environmental impact and cost). It takes special effort and public investment to gain comfort and good use of other transportation options. Squaxin provides and promotes a variety of transportation options to a limited degree through its Squaxin Transit and Health Promotions programs, and through programs in other departments.
6. Economic development, tourism, workforce development

Washington's 29 Indian tribes have a strong business ally in Governor Christine Gregoire. According to the 2006 Indian Gaming Association study, Washington's Indian economy has generated more than $3.2 billion in revenue in 2004 and employed 30,000 people. Washington tribal and individual Indian spending topped $2.2 billion in the same year and yielded $141 million in state and local taxes. In comparison, America spends $1 billion dollars a day fighting a war in Iraq.

Tourism stats: 67% of all travelers use the internet to research and plan future trips * 51% of travelers have increased their length of stay due to being influenced by an itinerary * 58% of travelers have been influenced by a Travel Guide and have changed plans as a result * 2010 Winter Games will be a major Northwest attraction, injecting tourism dollars into the local economies, including Indian Country.

Tourism partner. The Olympic Peninsula Tribal Tourism Association is a vital tourism partner with a mission is to provide travelers with a memorable travel experience and work closely with their partner communities. OPTTA has submitted a National Scenic Byway proposal requesting a grant for marketing material to coordinate and offer accurate information for a now “dormant” Pacific Coast Scenic Byway (365 miles in NW Washington State along SR101).

7. Elders

Squaxin’s senior citizens (community and tribal members over age 55) are served by an Elders program as well as by other tribal and non-tribal programs, utilizing varied forms of individual and group public transportation for work, shopping, dining, social, and medical activities. The vehicles used to transport elders for group activities, especially long-distance trips, are uncomfortable and unreliable. Group activities are numerous: For example, in May 2008 elders program field trips included Tacoma, Warm Springs Tribe, Portland (charter bus trip with Nisqually and Quinault elders), and Yakama Nation as well as weekly trips to LCCR dinners.

8. Emergency management

Squaxin has an Emergency and Safety Management program, a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center, and a response/recovery system in development. The basic plan is in place, coordinating with regional partners, meeting minimum FEMA requirements. Squaxin holds staff training and tribal/regional drills. The safety program is less developed, currently decentralized, with each tribal department responsible for addressing their own safety needs.

9. Maintenance/preservation

Squaxin transportation infrastructure has a growing informal backlog of needs to be addressed. For example, the older tribal roads need to be chip sealed to preserve the pavement.

10. Mobility

Mobility involves use of transportation options (i.e. walking, biking, transit, driving) to access goods and services, work, school, and other functions. Intermodal connections need to be convenient and easy to use. Squaxin has relatively good mobility as a rural community with a fairly dense Kamilche-area core and fairly good intermodal access to the region. Most community members and staff drive their own vehicles to work or to access goods and services.

As fuel costs increase, people are increasingly more interested in modes of transportation other than their single occupancy vehicle. Mason Transit has experienced a 26% ridership increase in between May 2007 and May 2008. Dial-A-Ride is also experiencing increased usage. Dial-A-Ride has no eligibility requirements. Users request a shared ride 48-hours in advance (preferred) with a 30-minute window on arrival/departure.
11. Natural/cultural resource protection

Squaxin Island Tribal leaders signed the Medicine Creek Treaty with the United States government in 1854. The treaty forced the Squaxin people to give up their land except for Squaxin Island, but specifically guaranteed they could continue to harvest fish, shellfish, and game in their usual and accustomed territory. To this day, Squaxin’s natural resources and cultural resources are protected by the U.S. government and by Squaxin’s Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Departments with the help of advisory committees.

12. Special needs/accessibility

Squaxin transportation system accommodates special needs with ADA transit buses and facilities (especially newer ones) that are designed to optimize accessibility. This is especially important as the population ages and obstacles can cause injury or neglect.

13. Traffic Safety

Traffic safety is a top tribal concern about youth who use the roads due to lack of bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, signs, etc. and dart across busy streets to/from their destinations (i.e. playground, Education Center). Squaxin Lane is the most dangerous since it is the main access road for the Education Center. Other traffic safety concerns involve excessive speeding and impaired driving.

14. Youth

Squaxin youth are the pride and joy of the community whose safety is a top priority. They benefit from programs in almost every department.

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