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August 22, 2017

David Schumacher
Director, Office of Financial Management
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

The Honorable Curtis King
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
P.O. Box 40414
Olympia WA 98504-0414

The Honorable Judy Clibborn
Chair, House Transportation Committee
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504-0600

RE: Advancing Connecting Washington projects

Dear Director Schumacher, Senator King and Representative Clibborn,

We are writing in regards to ESB 5096, Subsections 306(28), which allows the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on a pilot basis to advance the delivery of a specifically identified list of Connecting Washington-funded projects. Under these provisos, work on the projects can start in the 2017-19 biennium "...if the department expects to have substantial reappropriations for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium..." The proviso requires the department to provide appropriate notice to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the legislature transportation committees before advancing projects.

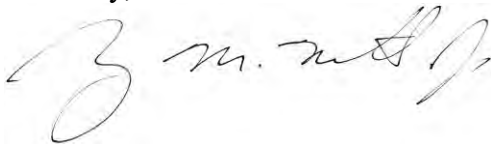
The department has identified Connecting Washington projects in the Highway Improvement Program with an appropriation that cannot be used in 2017-19 that will be used to advance five of the Highway Improvement projects identified in ESB 5096, Section 306(28). Based on the proviso language, this expectation is sufficient to advance Connecting Washington projects if by advancing the projects it does not "...hinder the delivery of the projects for which the reappropriations are necessary for the 2019-21 biennium."

Below is the list of the Connecting Washington projects that the department will advance, including an estimated amount that will be advanced and associated benefits. Over the biennium, the department will monitor the cash flow needs of these projects to ensure that they do not jeopardize the delivery schedule of other Connecting Washington projects.

Advance	Project No.	Title	Note
Highway Improvement (I) projects identified for advancement in Section 306(28)			
Yes	L2000061	SR 28/SR 285, North Wenatchee Area Improvements	\$500,000 in 2017-19 would be used for community outreach and predesign.
Yes	L2000223	I-5/Rebuild Chambers Way Interchange Improvements	\$1 million in 2017-19 to continue community engagement and better define the project limits.
Yes	T10300R	SR 28 East Wenatchee Corridor Improvements	\$250,000 in 2017-19 would be used for community outreach and predesign.
Yes	T32700R	SR 510/Yelm Loop Phase 2	\$3.5 million into 2017-19, which would allow the project to be advertised and completed sooner.
Yes	L1000112	SR 20/Sharpes Corner Vicinity Intersection	The project is scheduled to go to ad in fall 2017. \$1 million can be advanced into 2017-19.

In closing, WSDOT appreciates the flexibility the Legislature has provided on a pilot basis. We look forward to continuing the conversation on how WSDOT can best deliver on legislative expectations. The department will transmit the detailed project list using the Transportation Executive Information System (TEIS) for your reference. Please contact Jay Alexander, CPDM Director, at (360) 705-7121 or via email at Jay.Alexander@wsdot.wa.gov if you have questions or need additional information regarding the expected reappropriation level or the projects that are being advanced.

Sincerely,



Roger Millar, PE, AICP
Secretary of Transportation

Cc: Kelly Simpson, STC
Mark Matteson, HTC
Erik Hansen, OFM