



April 26, 2018

The Honorable Steve Hobbs
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
P.O. Box 40444
Olympia WA 98504-0444

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

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

RE: Advancing Connecting Washington projects

Dear Senator Hobbs, Representative Clibborn and Director Schumacher:

We are writing in regards to ESSB 6106, Subsections 306(28)(xiii) and 311(8)(xiv), 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 and Local Programs with an appropriation that cannot be used in 2017-19 that will be used to advance projects identified in ESSB 6106, Subsections 306(28)(xiii) and 311(8)(xiv). 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."

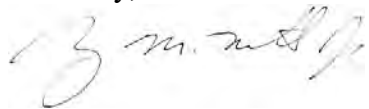
Below is a list of the Connecting Washington projects that the department will advance, including an estimated amount that will be advanced and associated benefits. Over the biennium, the department will monitor the cash flow needs of these projects to ensure that they do not jeopardize the delivery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

Advance	Project No.	Title	Note
Highway Improvement (I) projects identified for advancement in Section 306 (28)(xiii)			
Yes	T30400R	SR 3 Freight Corridor	Advancing \$300K into 2017-19 will allow for early community engagement and predesign.
Local Programs (Z) projects identified for advancement in Section 311(8)(xiv)			
Yes	G2000015	Bay Street Pedestrian Project	Advancing \$45,000 into 2017-19 would allow the award of a portion of the project to be completed this construction season.

In closing, WSDOT appreciates the flexibility the Legislature has provided on a pilot basis. We look forward to continuing the conversation on providing additional tools needed in order for WSDOT to 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

RM:jd

cc: Kelly Simpson, STC
Mark Matteson, HTC
Dean Carlson, OFM