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October 18, 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 307(14) and 311(8)(a), 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 two projects identified in ESB 5096, Section 307(14) and 311(8)(a). 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."

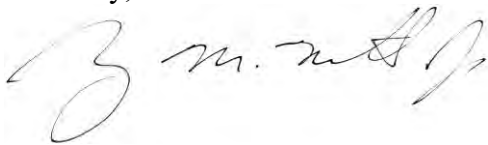
Below is the list of the Connecting Washington projects that the department will advance, including an estimated amount that will be advanced and associated benefits. Over the biennium, the department will monitor the cash flow needs of these projects to ensure that they do not jeopardize the delivery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

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Advance	Project No.	Title	Note
<b>Highway Preservation (P) projects identified for advancement in Section 307(14)</b>			
Yes	L2000075	US 12/ Wildcat Bridge Replacement	Advancing \$5 million into 2017-19 will advance the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and will allow the project to begin sooner.
<b>Local Programs (Z) projects identified for advancement in Section 311(8)(a)</b>			
Yes	L1000087	I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange	Advancing \$2.6 million into 2017-19 would allow Stage 1 to be advertised and begin construction in early 2018.

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](mailto: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  
Dean Carlson, OFM