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## Current Studies

### Local Agency Efficiencies - CRAB, TIB, FMSIB and WSDOT Highways and Local Programs

This study will evaluate funding and services offered by four state agencies providing local transportation services -- the County Road Administration Board, the Transportation Improvement Board, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, and WSDOT's highways and local programs division. The principle objective is to identify opportunities to streamline governance and organization, and to identify whether there are more efficient ways to distribute transportation funds and provide services to local governments. The goal is to increase efficiencies while effectively meeting local governments' needs. A policy workgroup composed of legislators and a member of the Governor's staff will oversee the study. A technical staff workgroup will provide support.

**Budget:** \$200,000

**Consultant:** Berk & Associates

**Schedule:** Work began on May 11, 2010; preliminary evaluation 11/15/10; final evaluation 12/15/10.

**JTC Staff:** Mary Fleckenstein (360-786-7312), with Gene Baxstrom (360-786-7398) as back-up

**House and Senate Staff:** Christie Parker (360-786-7322) and Debbie Driver (360-786-7143), HTC; Amanda Cecil (360-786-7429), STC

[View Study Meeting Information & Materials](#)

### Transit Investments Blueprint Study

This study will identify the state's role in funding public transportation, and develop a blueprint to guide state investments in public transportation. The study will assess unmet operating and capital needs; the state role in funding those unmet needs; priorities for state investment; and efficiency and accountability measures to inform future state investment. A transit advisory panel has been appointed by the Co-chairs as provided in the study directive.

[View Transit Advisory Panel Meeting Information & Materials](#)

**Budget:** \$350,000 from multimodal account

**Consultant:** Parsons-Brinckerhoff

**Schedule:** Work began on May 18, 2010; and a report is to be submitted by December 15, 2010

**JTC Staff:** Gene Baxstrom (360-786-7398), with Mary Fleckenstein (360-786-7312) as back-up

**House and Senate Staff:** David Munnecke, (360-786-7315) and Mark Matteson (360-786-7145) HTC; Amanda Cecil, (360-786-7429) and David Ward (360-785-7341) STC

### State-Level Planning Evaluation

This study will evaluate the preparation of state-level transportation plans, and make recommendations concerning the appropriate responsibilities of plan preparation, methods to develop plans more efficiently, and utility of state-level planning documents. The study will evaluate whether current planning requirements are duplicative, and can be streamlined. Included in the evaluation are federal planning requirements, the Washington Transportation Plan and statewide modal plan requirements, and regional and local transportation plan requirements.

For an overview of current statewide transportation plans and schedules click on the following link:

[Selected Transportation Plans: Schedules At-A-Glance](#)

**Budget:** \$125,000

**Consultant:** Cedar River Group

**Schedule:** Consultant to start mid-to-late June; report and potential draft legislation due December 15, 2010.

**JTC Staff:** Paul Neal (360-786-7327), with Gene Baxstrom (360-786-7398) as back-up.

**House and Senate Staff:** Beth Redfield, HTC (360-786-7347); Kelly Simpson, STC (360-786-7403)

### Storm Water Permit Requirements

JLARC and not JTC will undertake an analysis of the Department of Ecology's storm water permit requirements, to determine costs and benefits of alternative options for WSDOT to meet the requirements. The study will consider whether the permit functions should be performed by WSDOT, by the Dept. of Ecology or otherwise centralizing efforts for all state agencies; or by an external firm or organization.

[Click here to visit JLARC's website for more information on this study.](#)

### Ferry System Studies

JTC will undertake two ferry studies this interim, which will be conducted within JTC's existing contract with Cedar River Group.

Industrial insurance for ferry system employees. This study will compare medical, time-loss, vocational and disability benefits available to injured workers, as well as costs payable by the State of Washington and employees, under two programs: the federal Jones Act and Washington's industrial insurance act.

PERC and MEC grievance processing. This study will compare grievance and hearing processing time at the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) and the Marine Employees Commission (MEC), and determine whether PERC has the expertise to administer the grievances and hearings currently administered by MEC.

**Budget:** Within existing funds

**Consultant:** Cedar River Group

**Schedule:** Consultant began work in April

**JTC Staff:** Paul Neal (360-786-7327)

**House and Senate Staff:** Janice Baumgardt, STC (360-786-7319); Debbie Driver, HTC (360-786-7143)

Fuel Tax Refunds for Non-Highway or Off-Road Use of Gasoline and Diesel

This staff-led study will review fuel tax refunds for nonhighway and off-road use of gasoline and diesel. This is primarily a data-gathering task to provide an overview of off-road programs, analyze historical funding and expenditures, outline how the funds are distributed to the various accounts, and to document future identified off-road, snowmobile and marine funding needs.

[View Study Meeting Information & Materials](#)

**Budget:** Within existing funds

**Schedule:** Final report due December 31, 2010

**JTC Staff:** Mary Fleckenstein (360-786-7312)

**House and Senate Staff:** Jerry Long, HTC (360-786-7306); Amanda Cecil (360-786-7429), and David Ward (360-786-7341), STC

DOL Vehicle and Vessel Licensing Statutory Rewrite, SB 6379

This is a staff project to evaluate SB 6379, a technical rewrite of Washington's vehicle and vessel title and registration statutes which passed the legislature and takes effect July 1, 2011. The purpose is to identify any unintended impacts on policy and revenue collection; and if there are any, to develop corrective draft legislation. JTC staff will work with staff from Department of Licensing, Code Reviser's Office, House and Senate Transportation staff, as well as stakeholders.

**Budget:** Within existing funds

**Schedule:** Evaluation completed 12/1/10, with any corrective draft legislation

**JTC Staff:** Paul Neal (360-786-7327)

**House and Senate Staff:** Jerry Long, HTC (360-786-7306); Kelly Simpson, STC (360-786-7403)

Transportation Resource Manual Update

The Transportation Resource Manual is a comprehensive primer about transportation in the state of Washington, covering policy, finance and governance and all modes of transportation at the state, regional and local levels. Every two years the JTC leads an effort by agency and legislative staff to update the manual for changes enacted since its last publication.

**Budget:** Within existing funds

**Schedule:** Update completed in January, 2011

**JTC Staff:** Paul Neal (360-786-7327)

**House and Senate Staff:** All

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