

Monthly Watch List (November 2012)

Attached below is a monthly list of Capital Highway projects with significant changes in scope, schedule or budget, which are actively monitored to identify when and how these issues are resolved. The first column below gives the state route, the project title and the type of work. The second column describes the phase of project development, i.e., design or construction, as well as the issue.

The table is sorted by new projects being added this month, and those projects that are being worked on by the project office to resolve the issue. Projects will remain on the list until the issue is resolved and has been reported to the public. The third section shows the projects with issues that were resolved this month and which will be removed from the Watch List.

Added to Watch List

No projects added

Updates to last month's Watch List

US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Paving (Yakima)	Design: design alternatives, materials procurement
US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Safety Work (Yakima)	Design: design alternatives, materials procurement
US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Bridge Replacement (Yakima)	Design: design alternatives, materials procurement
I-5/Express Lane Automation (King)	Construction: site problems
US 2/Wenatchee River Bridges – Replace Bridge 2/215 TPA (Chelan)	Construction: weather, contractor issues, timing problems
US 2/Chiwaukum Creek – Replace Bridge 2/212 TPA (Chelan)	Construction: weather, contractor issues, timing problems

US 97/Cameron Lake Road - Intersection Improvements (Okanogan)	Design: alternatives, design disputes
US 101/Hoh River (Site #2) - Stabilize Slopes (Jefferson)	Environmental: permitting, technical issues
SR 161/24th St E to Jovita - Add Lanes (Pierce)	Utilities: utility relocations; Construction: timing problems
SR 520 Pontoon Construction Project (Grays Harbor, Pierce)	Construction: materials
SR 520/Medina to SR 202 Vicinity - Eastside Transit and HOV (King)	Coordination: local concerns, litigation, design changes
Removed from Watch List	
No projects removed	

Added to Watch List

No projects were added this month

Updates to last month's Watch List

509703L US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Bridge Replacement (Yakima)

(Related projects: 509702N US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Paving (Yakima); 509702O US 97/Satus Creek Vicinity – Safety Work (Yakima))

<i>Current monthly status: No change.</i>
<i>Previously reported: Operational completion has been rescheduled for June 2013 due to slow progress caused by delays in negotiating rock</i>

sources, a design change, winter weather, and the fire season.

This project, budgeted for \$13.4 million, will replace the 70-year-old bridge with a wider and longer bridge, realign US 97, widen shoulders, upgrade pavement, and remove obstructions. When completed, the improvements will potentially reduce the risk of crashes and improve sight distance for drivers.

This project is in construction; the risk to the schedule has been realized. The contractor is behind schedule, and will need to stop work due to winter weather. This project was shutdown briefly due to the high forest fire precaution level, but the contractor was already far enough behind schedule due to negotiations for rock materials and a design change. The schedule could not be recovered to meet completion in October 2012. As a result, traffic on US 97 will continue to use the 35-mph detour and the detour bridge through the winter, increasing the risk of pavement deterioration on the bridge deck and potential scour problems at the bridge abutments.

Due to favorable bids, the total cost on this combined project has decreased to \$12.7 million, a savings of \$700,000.

The project is anticipated to be operationally complete in June 2013.

100522B I-5/Express Lane Automation (King)

Current monthly status: No change.

Previously reported: Difficult field conditions and underground utility relocation delayed the schedule. Operational completion was achieved in July 2012. The delay increased total costs by \$900,000.

This project, budgeted for \$5.4 million, replaced a manual gate with automated gates on the I-5 Express Lanes in Seattle. It also installed 13 miles of new fiber optic lines to allow engineers to reverse lane directions remotely; and added new LED signs, 45 new traffic cameras to monitor gate entrances and blind corners, and camera cabinets. This

project will potentially reduce congestion by reducing the time needed to switch express lanes from the current one hour it takes to 15 minutes.

This project is operationally complete. The budget is at risk; the schedule is no longer at risk. A construction schedule delay led to a cost increase.

As reported in the June 2012 Gray Notebook 46, the delay to the schedule was due to the contractor encountering field conditions that required numerous changes to the above ground and underground conduit and cabling systems, slowing progress and delaying operational completion from April to August 2012. By working additional crews on the weekends, the contractor was able to recover a portion of the delay. The project opened to traffic on July 23, 2012, approximately one month earlier than the anticipated August 2012 date.

The schedule delay and associated cost changes increased the project cost to approximately \$6.2 million, with pending increases to a total project cost of \$7.1 million. The pending cost increase of \$900,000 is due to contract bid item overruns, several approved change orders, and ongoing discussions with the contractor regarding schedule impact risk items. WSDOT continues to monitor the project for cost impacts.

200201K US 2/Wenatchee River Bridge - Replace Bridge (Chelan) 2/215, 2/217

(200201L Related project: U.S. 2/Chiwaukum Creek - Replace Bridge (Chelan) 2/212)

<i>Current monthly status: Girders were set in November, keeping the project on schedule for the new September 2013 operational completion.</i>

<i>Previously reported: Girders were expected to be set in October.</i>

These projects, budgeted for \$12.5 million, and known as U.S. 2 – Tumwater Canyon Bridge Replacements, will replace three narrow bridges with wider bridges over the Wenatchee River and Drury Creek, and Chiwaukum Creek. The added width may provide additional safety. It will accommodate motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians who are visiting the campground.

This project also constructs new turn lanes into Tumwater Campground and adds fish passage enhancements in the creek bed.

The projects are in the construction phase: the budget and schedule continue to be at risk. The operationally complete date has been delayed from December 2012 to September 2013. At the end of November, the girders were set and prepared for winter. Completion of this work keeps the project on the new September 2013 scheduled completion.

WSDOT continues to monitor the situation, and will determine possible impacts to the contract costs and the operationally complete date after the design revisions and pier construction.

209700W US 97/Cameron Lake Road - Intersection Improvement (Okanogan)

<i>Current monthly status: No change.</i>
<i>Previously reported: The advertisement date was delayed to March 2013 to redesign an alternative solution that meets community requests.</i>

This project, budgeted for \$1 million, will install improvements for freight traffic, improve sight distance and add illumination at the Cameron Lake Road intersection. When completed, the project will potentially reduce the frequency and severity of traffic collisions.

This project is in the design phase; the advertisement date of February 2013 is at risk. WSDOT had proposed a roundabout at the intersection of U.S. 97 and Oak Street to improve the intersection, decrease accidents, and allow for safer freight movement through the corridor. The community, and local and state officials wanted an alternative solution. After the Open House held in September, WSDOT revised plans to address the collisions. The work will install left turn channelization, extend and modify the existing southbound right turn lane, and install advance electronic warning signs. These alternative improvements reduce the current cost of the project from \$2 million to \$1.5

million, a decrease of approximately \$500,000. WSDOT will monitor the improvements for effectiveness, as is done for all intersections.

To accommodate the revised design, the advertisement date is delayed to March 2013.

310141H US 101/Hoh River (Site #2) - Stabilize Slopes (Jefferson)

<i>Current monthly status: No change.</i>
<i>Previously reported: The advertisement date was delayed to December 2014 due to permitting delays caused by staff cuts at other agencies. The operationally complete date was delayed to October 2015.</i>

This project, budgeted for \$9.6 million, will install several log crib walls to stabilize the river bank and prevent further loss of the roadway due to Hoh River bank erosion.

The project is in the design phase; the schedule is at risk. The advertisement date is delayed from January 2014 to December 2014 due to a permitting delay caused by staff cuts at other agencies. The winter advertisement date is necessary for scheduling the in-water work.

The delays have further pushed operational completion from January 2015 to October 2015.

316118A SR 161/24th St E to Jovita - Add Lanes (Pierce)

<i>Current monthly status: A project cost increase is being requested.</i>
<i>Previously reported: The operationally complete date has been delayed to September 2013 due to underground relocation work that is progressing slower than planned. The project cost will increase by \$2.5 million.</i>

This project, budgeted for \$40 million (including \$367,000 of local agency funds), widens a 1.2 mile section of SR 161 from three to five lanes through the City of Edgewood. Construction includes new sidewalks and road approaches, illumination, retaining walls, storm water drainage facilities, and requires major utility relocations. When complete, the project will ease congestion and potentially improve safety along the SR 161 corridor.

The project is in the construction phase; the schedule and budget are at risk. Utility relocation and trench construction are progressing slower than planned due to underground conflicts. This delay is further postponing roadway widening work into winter weather. WSDOT and the contractor are working to recover some of the work schedule and reduce associated costs.

The operationally complete date has been delayed from June 2012 to September 2013. The delays are expected to increase the total project cost by \$2.5 million.

852003A SR 520 Pontoon Construction (Pierce, Grays Harbor)

<i>Current monthly status: No change.</i>
<i>Previously reported: Cracks continue to be found in the pontoons. Governor Gregoire has asked for additional review.</i>

This Design-Build project, budgeted for a \$367 million contract, built a 55-acre casting facility in Aberdeen to construct 21 longitudinal pontoons (360 feet long by 75 feet wide), two cross pontoons (240 feet long by 75 feet wide), and 10 supplemental stability pontoons (98 feet long by 60 feet wide), for the new SR 520 floating bridge.

These pontoons are designed to replace the existing floating bridge in the event of a catastrophic event.

The project is in the second of six pontoon construction cycles; the interim schedule milestones are at risk. As reported in the June 2012 Gray Notebook 46, the first cycle of pontoons were completed and floated out on July 30, 2012. Work had been delayed

due to spalling and cracking in the pontoons. This delay may affect the remaining pontoons' construction schedule.

Repairs were completed on four affected pontoons. An independent expert panel evaluated the probable causes for the spalling and cracking, and concurred with the repair procedures in the first cycle. Since then, more cracks have been found in the already completed pontoons. Governor Christine Gregoire has called for additional review.

WSDOT continues to work on the solution.

852021A SR 520/Medina to SR 202 Vicinity - Eastside Transit and HOV (King)

<i>Current monthly status: The Fairweather Basin lawsuit has been resolved.</i>
<i>Previously reported: A lawsuit brought by Fairweather Basin residents alleging reduced property values as a result of project actions was expected to be resolved by 2013.</i>

This Design-Build project, budgeted for a \$306 million contract, will feature a six-lane SR 520 corridor between Medina and Redmond. The project will build an inside HOV/transit lane, wider shoulders, and environmental improvements including nine fish-passable stream crossings and associated habitat improvements.

It will also add community enhancements like lids, and a regional trail extension; and construct two new median transit stops, along with other transit improvements. When completed, the project will provide design enhancements to reduce the potential for serious injury and fatal collisions along the SR 520 corridor, and improve mobility and fish habitat.

The project has completed design, is in construction, and is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2013. As reported in June 2012 Gray Notebook 46, WSDOT and the design-builder, Eastside Corridor Constructors, continue their discussions on budget and schedule risks. Potential schedule and budget effects will be determined after further consultation with the contractor.

WSDOT continues to work with the contractor in resolving geotechnical considerations in the area. Negotiations are completed on the Fairweather Basin permit modifications and the additional noise walls.

WSDOT is monitoring the geotechnical item and now expects that issue to be resolved by spring 2013. The lawsuit by Fairweather Basin residents, reported in the June 2012 Gray Notebook 46 as alleging reduced property values as a result of project actions, has been resolved.

Removed from Watch List

No projects were removed this month