Chapter 300  Project scoping and programming

300.01 Introduction

During the project scoping and programming phase, WSDOT develops a plan to identify and address transportation facility performance needs and creates a preliminary budget for consideration by the state legislature. The process is required by state law (RCW 47.05.010) and is limited to solving safety and operational performance needs identified in WSDOT’s modal plans, as well as addressing environmental factors.

Scoping defines time and cost-of-work estimates for each proposed project. It is important that estimates be as realistic as possible and consider budget and schedule implications of environmental documentation, permitting and compliance monitoring, as well as engineering work.

Programming refines and prioritizes the list of proposed projects. The process is based on the recommendations gathered during Planning from community engagement activities and the costs and schedules developed during Project Scoping. Scoping and programming fulfills the needs for WSDOT to:

- Create and submit to the legislature a ten-year investment program as defined in RCW 47.05.030. The legislature considers and approves this program along with a 2-year budget. The approved program and budget can include legislative modifications. For details, see WSDOT’s project delivery plan website.
- Create fiscally-constrained lists of projects to be submitted for inclusion on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (that includes the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) developed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)) as required by CFR 450.218. Projects on the STIP are eligible for particular federal funding. For details on this process, see WSDOT’s Local Programs website.
Through this process:

- WSDOT creates a financially constrained list of projects for consideration by the legislature. The list is based on realistic schedules and cost estimates that include all phases of the work.

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approve the STIP. A project must be included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the STIP to be eligible for federal funding (Title 23 USC and the Federal Transit Act). For details on this process, see WSDOT’s Local Programs website.

- The legislature considers and approves WSDOT’s 6- to 10-year Capital Improvement and Preservation Program (CIPP) along with a 2-year budget. The approved plan and budget can include legislative modifications.

### 300.02 Project scoping

**Practical Solutions** is a two-part strategy that includes practical solutions planning and practical design, as defined in WSDOT Executive Order (EO) E 1090 and described in detail in Chapter 1100 of the Design Manual and the Practical Solutions planning webpage. This process defines the method WSDOT uses to scope and design projects.

WSDOT’s practical design process consists of seven primary procedural steps listed below, providing the basis for modal choice, alternative development and selection of design elements. The process resembles the NEPA process and every effort should be made to minimize re-work by documenting the Practical Design process in enough detail to fulfill the NEPA documentation requirements.

WSDOT’s Practical Design Process Steps include:

1. Assemble an advisory team. Environmental staff will usually be invited to participate on the Advisory Team by the Project Engineer (see Design Manual Section 1100.04).

2. Clearly identify the baseline and contextual needs (see Design Manual Chapter 1101).

3. Identify the land use and transportation context for the project location (see Design Manual Chapter 1102), including the environmental, economic, and social demographic data that indicate livability and travel characteristics.

4. Select design controls compatible with the context (see Design Manual Chapter 1103).

5. Formulate and evaluate potential alternatives that resolve the baseline/contextual need and are bound by design controls (see Design Manual Chapter 1104).

6. Select design elements employed and/or changed by the selected alternative(s) (see Design Manual Chapter 1105).

7. Determine design element dimensions consistent with the alternatives' performance needs, context, and design controls (see Design Manual Chapter 1106).
The Basis of Design (BOD) is used to document the outcomes of applying these procedural steps. A BOD is required for all projects. The BOD should serve as the background and context for detailed environmental analysis and documentation. One of the major responsibilities of the advisory team environmental staff is to assist the team in establishing appropriate environmental measures, such as the number of square feet of impact to Category I and II wetlands (metric) and 0 square feet of impact (target). The environmental staff also ensure:

- The process, participants, and decisions made by the team comply with NEPA and SEPA requirements.
- The team considers all appropriate environmental disciplines (such as Section 4(f), Section 106, ESA, noise, etc.). See the User Guide for Corridor Sketch Summaries for additional key WSDOT environmental assets to consider.
- Decisions are included in the project's supporting documentation.

During project scoping, all major costs of the project are used to prepare a realistic schedule and cost estimate. Scoping is described in the Design Manual Chapter 300. The process is documented in the Project Profile and identifies the transportation needs that have generated the project, the purpose or goal of the work, and the recommended solution.

The Environmental Review Summary (ERS) is attached to the Project Profile as a part of the Project Summary package. It:

- Documents known baseline environmental conditions.
- Describes potential environmental impacts, mitigation options, and anticipated permits necessary for the project.
- Establishes project classification (see Section 300.03) and anticipated level of environmental documentation required (see Chapter 400) for the project. The Region Environmental Manager approves the ERS, which indicates concurrence with the anticipated project NEPA and/or SEPA Classification.

For many projects, the WSDOT Geographic Information System (GIS) Workbench coupled with a site visit provides sufficient information to complete the ERS for projects classified as Categorical Exclusions. Additional detailed analysis may be required for projects that require an EA or EIS. The ERS database includes fully integrated help screens that provide detailed guidance. Contact your Region Environmental Office or Program Management Office to get set up to work in the database.

For CE level projects, the information in the ERS is exported to the ECS database and becomes the basis for NEPA/SEPA environmental documentation (see Chapter 400 for more information).
300.03 Project types with special requirements

Certain types of projects constructed at WSDOT follow a different planning and scoping process than standard transportation projects. These project types are constructed with the objective of improving fish habitat or access to fish habitat and have specific coordination and approval requirements with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or the Tribes. These project types include Fish Passage Barrier Correction projects and Chronic Environmental Deficiency (CED) projects.

Project scoping for Washington State Department of Transportation Ferries Division (WSF) projects is described in the Terminal Design Manual Chapters 200 and 205.

300.03(1) Fish passage projects - Fish Passage Delivery Planning

The agency created the fish passage program in 1991 to inventory, prioritize, and correct fish passage barriers along Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) highways.

WSDOT corrects fish passage barriers mainly through stand-alone projects or as part of larger transportation projects. Sometimes highway barriers are corrected in partnerships with local agencies, Tribes, enhancement groups, and other project sponsors. Other barriers are corrected when culverts are replaced at the end of their useful life.

WSDOT’s Fish Passage Delivery plan is available on WSDOT’s Fish Passage Internet website. You can also find the latest Fish Passage Delivery Plan updates in the ‘Fish Passage Program Delivery’ tab (see ‘Fish Barrier Plan’ spreadsheet) in WSDOT’s Fish Passage Database. These lists include information on fish barrier corrections that are planned as stand-alone fish passage projects or through larger transportation projects.

300.03(2) Stand-alone I-4 Funded Fish Passage Projects

These projects are part of the WSDOT Environmental Retrofit Subprogram (I4). The sole purpose of these projects is to correct fish passage barriers.

The Environmental Services Office contracts with the WDFW's Fish Passage Program for project support for I-4 funded, injunction barrier corrections. WDFW's fish passage contract does not include support for barriers corrected through larger transportation projects or barriers corrected outside of the culvert injunction case area.

The following tasks are covered by the WDFW agreement managed by ESO's Stream Restoration Program Manager:

- WDFW fish passage biologists and engineers provide technical support
- Verify fish passage barrier status
- Verify fish species present and habitat information
- Attend interdisciplinary team site visits
- Review and comment on the preliminary hydraulic design (PHD)
- Identify fish work windows for permitting
- May provide input on Design Build Request for Proposals
- Biologists issue Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs)
- Biologists provide construction support
WDFW project support biologist and engineer assignments are found in the ‘Fish Passage Program Delivery’ tab (see ‘WSDOT_Fish_Passage_WDFW_Work’ spreadsheet) of WSDOT’s Fish Passage Database. This spreadsheet also includes project assignments for WSDOT staff working on fish passage projects, including the Project Engineering Offices (PEOs), Headquarters Hydraulics engineers, and ESO Stream Restoration biologists.

**Larger Transportation Projects**

WSDOT considers fish barrier correction for transportation projects that alter the roadway prism or add infrastructure within the existing right of way. Protect and maintain any previously corrected barriers.

Use the ‘WSDOT Sites’ data layer in the GIS Workbench to locate fish passage barriers and corrected barriers within or adjacent to the planning study area.

Contact WSDOT’s Stream Restoration Program Manager to verify information and determine if the fish passage inventory needs an update. Updating fish passage inventories during planning helps us identify future funding needs.

Barriers corrected through larger transportation projects are permitted by WDFW Local Area Biologists, rather than WDFW Fish Passage Biologists.

ESO Stream Restoration Program biologists are available to provide technical assistance and support on fish barriers corrected through larger transportation projects, including culvert injunction compliance.

**300.03(3) Chronic Environmental Deficiency (CED) Projects**

A Chronic Environmental Deficiency (CED) is a site along a state highway that is adjacent to a waterbody, and where recent, frequent repairs or maintenance (typically 3 times in 10 years) to WSDOT infrastructure cause adverse impacts to fish or fish habitat. These sites are often subject to frequent streambank erosion, sedimentation, flooding, washouts, or other environmental threats that if left unaddressed can require emergency repairs, result in road closures, and reduce the safety of the traveling public.

In 2002 WSDOT signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), in which WSDOT agreed to establish the CED Program. The purpose of the CED Program is to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements under the HPA permitting process for highway maintenance activities identified in Section VIII of the MOA. The CED Program implements a specific process between WSDOT and WDFW to collaboratively develop and construct long-term solutions that reduce impacts to fish from repetitive repairs, maximize improvements to fish habitat, and meet WSDOT’s infrastructure preservation needs. To support this, WSDOT developed a funding category to provide an inventory, scoping, prioritization, and programming process for CED correction projects. The MOA was most recently updated in 2016.
Addressing Chronic Environmental Deficiencies

The CED program is implemented from within the Headquarters Stream Restoration Program at WSDOT by the CED Coordinator, who oversees the inventory, assessment, scoping, and prioritization of CED projects through a collaborative process with WDFW. This process includes four general steps:

1. Nomination and analysis
2. Concept selection and stakeholder coordination
3. Project funding and implementation
4. Post-project monitoring

The CED Coordinator works closely with WSDOT Hydrology and regional staff to assess CEDs and develop project alternatives, and then facilitates a stakeholder concurrence process with WDFW to select a preferred solution for CED correction projects. When funds are designated for a CED project, WSDOT regional staff become responsible for overseeing its design and construction.

Two project documents are produced by the CED program that document the proposed conceptual designs and agreement with WDFW on a proposed CED solution. These include:

- **Site and Reach Assessment** prepared by a geomorphologist or hydrologist, that evaluates the processes occurring in the watershed and identifies the mechanism for failure. It discusses alternative solutions and provides a recommendation. The site and reach assessment also identifies actions to maintain the highway infrastructure until a permanent solution is constructed.

- **CED Concurrence form** signed by WDFW and WSDOT headquarters and regional staff. This form summarizes the considered alternatives and documents agreement with the proposed conceptual design.

WSDOT documents its progress addressing CEDs in the CED Annual Report, which is published early each calendar year and distributed to WDFW and other stakeholders. More information on the CED process and links to relevant documents are located on the CED website.

Roles and Responsibilities

The CED process involves staff throughout WSDOT, including the following headquarters and regional staff:

- **Environmental Services Office** – The CED Coordinator oversees the CED program and the CED process, including CED nomination, stakeholder outreach and concurrence, prioritization, and reporting. They provide biological technical assistance and coordinate with regional staff and WDFW regarding CED nominations, conceptual designs, concurrences, and prioritization.

- **Hydraulics Office** – Hydrology Staff work closely with the CED coordinator to approve CED nominations and prioritize CED sites. They prepare site and reach assessments and conceptual project designs and provide technical assistance to regional staff throughout project development and implementation.
• **Regional Maintenance** – The Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator (RMEC) and Maintenance Superintendents recommend potential new CED sites, provide updates on the current status of active CEDs, and assist with prioritization of CED projects.

• **Regional Environmental Manager** – Serves as the regional point of contact for the CED process, concurrence, and CED project implementation. They assist with regional and stakeholder coordination, and early permit coordination.

• **Project Engineer** – Participates in CED project pre-scoping and scoping to ensure that CED proposals are constructable and feasible.

• **Regional Program Management** – Scopes and programs CED construction projects and provides preliminary cost estimates.

**CED Project Scoping**

The CED Coordinator prioritizes the project relative to other CEDs based on potential benefits to fish and aquatic habitat, risk to infrastructure and safety, maintenance burden, and WDFW and stakeholder input or partnership opportunities. The prioritization is used by the Capital Program Development and Management (CPDM) to queue projects for funding approval.

As described in the MOA, WSDOT is obligated to make a good-faith effort to fund and construct CED projects and can do so using any source. Most CED projects are funded through a stand-alone retrofit program in the Highway Construction Improvement (I-4) Program. CEDs are also repaired as part of fish passage improvement projects, highway safety and mobility projects, and occasionally using other funding sources, such as emergencies, highway preservation, or through partnerships with other entities.

The scoping and design process for CED projects differs depending on the funds used for construction.

**CEDs Corrected using Stand-alone CED I-4 Funds**

1. CPDM issues scoping instructions to regional staff each fall for priority CED projects.

2. Regional program management contacts the CED coordinator for all project documentation, and then scopes and programs the CED project based on the agreed-on conceptual design.

3. Once funding is received, the project is assigned to a Project Office for design, permitting, and construction with oversight from CED program staff.

**CEDs Corrected as part of Fish Passage Correction Projects**

1. The CED Coordinator works closely with ESO Fish Passage Program staff to identify planned fish barrier removal projects that are also CEDs.

2. If a concurrence form has not yet been approved for an active CED, the CED Coordinator will lead a concept selection and concurrence with WDFW and regional staff to identify and agree on an appropriate CED solution.
3. The CED problem is addressed in the Preliminary Hydraulic Design (PHD) for the Fish Barrier Removal Project.

4. The project is scoped, designed, and constructed through WSDOT’s Fish Passage process, with input from CED Coordinator. See Section 300.xx in the Environmental Manual for more information.

5. The completed project is monitored through WSDOT’s Fish Passage Monitoring program.

CEDs Corrected during Other Transportation Projects

1. The Region contacts the CED Coordinator early during the project scoping phase to screen for active CEDs in the vicinity of the project limits.

2. The CED Coordinator notifies the Region of CEDs located in the project vicinity and determines if a reach analysis was previously prepared, and a conceptual design agreed-on by WDFW.

3. The Region determines which deficiencies would be corrected during the proposed transportation project.

4. If stakeholder concurrence on a CED concept has not been completed or is out of date, the CED Coordinator initiates a reach analysis and obtains WDFW agreement on a CED project concept.

5. The Region works with the CED coordinator and hydrologist to ensure the scope is compatible with the concept in CED reach assessment and concurrence.

6. The Project Office designs, permits, and constructs the CED project as part of the transportation project, with oversight from CED program staff.

CEDs Corrected during an Emergency Repair

1. During planning of an emergency construction project, the Project Engineer or the RMEC (depending on funding source of the emergency repair) contacts the CED Coordinator to determine if a reach assessment has been completed and if a concurrence form has been signed. If so, the CED Coordinator and Hydrologist may recommend incorporating the agreed-upon CED concept into the emergency repair.

2. The Project Office determines the feasibility of constructing the proposed CED concept during the emergency response. Construction of emergency projects often occurs during high flows and challenging conditions, and at times there are funding limitations associated with emergency funds.

3. The Region works with WDFW to design and permit the project under emergency conditions with input from the CED Coordinator.
300.04 Project classification

The project classification determines the anticipated level of environmental documentation required for a WSDOT project. It is based on the information contained in the Environmental Review Summary and can change as more information is discovered.

State projects with a federal nexus are subject to NEPA and SEPA. Projects that have only state funding and no federal nexus follow SEPA guidelines. If future funding is undetermined, NEPA guidelines are usually followed so the project can qualify for federal funding in the future.

300.05 NEPA classifications

Projects with federal dollars or approvals are subject to NEPA, and fall into one of the three classifications described below.

1. **NEPA Class I projects** – Actions that are likely to have significant impact on the environment because of their effects on land use, planned growth, development patterns, traffic volumes, travel patterns, transportation services, or natural resources. They require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (see Chapter 400) because the action is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts. Projects that usually require an EIS, as defined in 23 CFR 771.115, are:
   - New controlled-access freeways.
   - Highway project of four or more lanes in a new location.
   - New construction or extension of fixed rail transit facilities (e.g., rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, automated guideway transit).
   - New construction or extension of a separate roadway for buses or high occupancy vehicles not located within an existing highway facility.

   Although examples are given, it is important to remember that the context and intensity of the potential impacts, and the level of controversy on environmental grounds, determine the need for an EIS, not the size of the project.

2. **NEPA Class II projects** – are Categorical Exclusions (CE). These actions are not likely to cause significant adverse environmental impacts, meet the definitions contained in 40 CFR 1508.4, and are excluded from completing an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Classification Summary (ECS) serves as the environmental documentation for these types of projects (see Chapter 400).

   Each federal agency is required to identify its own categories of actions that qualify as CEs, although all USDOT agencies agree that Class II projects typically:
   - Do not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use.
   - Do not require the relocation of significant numbers of people.
   - Do not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic, or other resource.
• Do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts.
• Do not have significant impacts on travel patterns.
• Do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have significant environmental impacts.

a. **FHWA Categorical Exclusions (CE)** – Under the May 2020 CE Programmatic Agreement (PCE) with FHWA, WSDOT approves the NEPA documentation for all Class II (CE) Projects described in 23 CFR 771.117(c) and (d). These actions are generally minor actions that have little or no physical impacts. These actions normally do not require further approval or documentation by FHWA. Environmental documentation for CE projects is accomplished by completion of the Environmental Classification Summary (ECS), which is approved by the Region Environmental Manager (see Chapter 400). The NEPA documentation process for Local Agencies is described in the WSDOT Local Programs NEPA Categorical Exclusions Guidebook.

WSDOT may request FHWA review and signature for individual projects on a case-by-case basis (PCE - Section IV(B)(3)).

b. **FTA Categorical Exclusions (CE)** – CEs are described in 23 CFR 771.118(c) as minor actions that have little or no physical impacts that have been designated as CEs by FTA. These actions do not require further approval or documentation by FTA. FTA has its own process and worksheets for documenting CEs.

c. **FRA Categorical Exclusions (CE)** – CEs are described in 23 CFR 771.116 FRA has its own process and worksheets for documenting CEs. Contact the WSDOT Rail Division Environmental Compliance Manager for assistance.

3. **NEPA Class III projects** – When the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project are not clearly understood, an environmental assessment (EA) is prepared. The EA determines the extent and level of environmental impact.

The content and complexity of an EA will vary depending on the project. See Chapter 400 and the WSDOT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Assessment (EA) Processes webpage for details on EA documentation and procedure.

### 300.06 SEPA classifications

Chapter 400 explains WSDOT’s SEPA responsibilities and how NEPA can satisfy SEPA documentation requirements. Many of our actions are exempt from the SEPA process. If an action is not exempt, it is either found to have non-significant or significant impacts. Non-exempt projects frequently trigger both NEPA and SEPA. NEPA documentation satisfies SEPA.

WSDOT serves as the SEPA lead agency on actions undertaken by our agency. As such, we are required to determine the level of environmental review and documentation required for an action. The SEPA determinations fall into one of three broad categories: Determination of Significance (DS), Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) and Categorically Exempt (CE).
• Determination of Significance (DS) – May be issued for actions that are likely to result in a probable significant adverse environmental impact. A DS requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be completed for the action. **Note:** if an action has a probable significant adverse impact, the project team may immediately begin the EIS process without issuing a DS.

• Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) – Issued for actions that are not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact but are not categorically exempt.

• Categorically Exempt (CE) – Covers actions identified by statute or rule that are unlikely to cause significant adverse environmental impacts.

The types of projects that qualify as categorically exempt can be found in:
- **RCW 43.21C.035 – 43.21C.0384** – Statutory Exemptions
- **WAC 197-11-800** – Categorical exemptions listed in state SEPA rules.
- **WAC 197-11-860** – Nine categorical exemptions specific to WSDOT.
- **WAC 468-12-800** – DOT’s agency SEPA procedures including how WSDOT has interpreted the categorical exemptions listed in state SEPA rules.

### 300.07 Revision of project scope and classification

See Section 400.06 for details on project re-evaluations and preparation of supplementary environmental documentation.

#### 300.07(1) NEPA Reclassification

A revised ECS must be processed for any major change in a project classification if the project involves federal funds or approvals (NEPA). The 2020 **CE Programmatic Agreement** with FHWA allows WSDOT to approve the NEPA classification. Minor changes may be handled informally.

#### 300.07(2) SEPA Reclassification

A significant change in the scope of a state funded project with no federal nexus (SEPA only) usually requires revision of the ERS. This may include reassessment of the environmental classification. The Region Environmental Office, in coordination with the Region Program Management Office, determines if the ERS needs to be revised and the environmental classification changed. Any changes in classification are documented by a note to the file or a follow-up memo.

### 300.08 Highways Over National Forest Lands

WSDOT and the United States Forest Service (USFS) established procedures for coordination of transportation activities on national Forest lands in 1991 (updated in June 2013). The agreement covers coordination, project programming and planning, pre-construction, rights of way, construction/reconstruction, maintenance, signs, access control, and third party occupancy. The agreement does not apply to local agency projects. Elements that pertain to environmental analysis and documentation include the stipulation that:
• WSDOT will coordinate with USFS at project inception for projects using or affecting National Forest Service lands or interests.
• WSDOT and USFS will agree on needed environmental documents and lead agency responsibilities. WSDOT will have the primary responsibility for highway related projects.
• WSDOT and USFS will cooperate in development of a single set of environmental documents for each project and jointly seek public involvement when necessary.
• Draft and final environmental documents will be circulated to each agency for review before distribution for public comment.

300.09 Environmental database resources

300.09(1) WSDOT’s GIS Workbench

WSDOT’s GIS Workbench is an internal data system available for use by WSDOT staff in preparing the “Env Context” portion of the ERS. The Workbench is a user-friendly interface covering a wide range of environmental resources gathered from a variety of public agency and WSDOT sources.

The database has over 500 layers of environmental and natural resource management data, in the following major data categories:

• **General Reference** – Transportation routes, political and administrative boundaries, major public lands, geographic reference.
• **Environmental Data** – Air quality, fish and wildlife, priority species and habitats, geology and soils, groundwater and wells, hazardous materials, hydrography, plants, and water quality, Fish Passage and Chronic Environmental Deficiencies.

WSDOT users can access these data sets through the WSDOT GIS Workbench webpage. Data on WSDOT fish passage culverts is available to all WSDOT employees through WSDOT’s Fish Passage Database and is also contained in WDFW’s Fish Passage Web Map. WDFW’s fish passage inventory protocols are described in the Fish Passage Inventory, Assessment, and Prioritization Manual (WDFW 2019).

The data provided to WSDOT staff through the GIS Workbench is usually sufficient for the Project Summary’s ERS form. However, some data require field verification. For example, wetland data available from the GIS Workbench are not always reliable, and may show wetlands as absent when they are present or may show wetlands as present when they are not. Field work by a qualified wetland biologist is necessary to determine the presence or absence of wetlands.

300.09(2) Expansion of GIS Workbench

GIS resources for environmental data are expanding rapidly. WSDOT staff work with federal, state, and local agencies to maintain a collection of the best available data for statewide environmental analysis. New data resources are continuously being incorporated into the WSDOT GIS Workbench. To facilitate getting the best data into the system, contact the ESO Environmental Information Program with information about newly identified data resources.
300.09(3) Citing a GIS Database

The GIS Workbench itself should not be cited as a data source or referenced on paper or digitally. Data source or reference citation should be specific to the exact dataset viewed using the GIS Workbench. The proper citation format for digital data is evolving, but typically includes the name of the data system, the name of the agency that maintains/updates the data, and the date of the data retrieval. If the data comes from an Internet website, the title of the site should be included with the full Uniform Resource Locator (URL). The citation information can be found in the Metadata (Item Description) for each Workbench dataset.

300.10 Applicable statutes and regulations

- 23 CFR Part 774; 49 USC Section 303 Policy on Lands, Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites
- 36 CFR Part 800 Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties
- 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 Council for Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA
- WAC 197-11 SEPA Rules
- WAC 468-12 WSDOT Agency SEPA Procedures
- RCW 43.21C State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

300.11 Abbreviations and acronyms

- BOD Basis of Design
- CE Categorical Exclusion (NEPA) or Categorical Exemption (SEPA)
- CIPP Capital Improvement and Preservation Program
- CFR Code of Federal Regulations
- DNS Determination of Nonsignificance (SEPA)
- DS Determination of Significance (SEPA)
- EA Environmental Assessment (NEPA)
- ECS Environmental Classification Summary
- EIS Environmental Impact Statement
- EO Executive Order
- ERS Environmental Review Summary
- ESO Environmental Services Office
- FHWA Federal Highway Administration
- FTA Federal Transit Administration
- FRA Federal Railroad Administration
- GIS Geographic Information System
300.12 Glossary

**Categorical Exclusion** – A NEPA action defined by a specific agency through CFR or FR that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect (see Section 300.04(a)).

**Categorical Exemption** – A SEPA action defined through WAC that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect (see Section 300.05).

**Federal Nexus** – A project has a federal nexus when a federal agency must take an action on a project. Before the federal agency takes an action environmental impacts must be evaluated under NEPA. Common actions that create a Federal Nexus include:

- Federal land decision required within the project area.
- Federal money is used on the project.
- Federal permits or approvals are required.