



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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January 23, 2026

The Honorable Jake Fey
House Transportation Committee
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Mike Pellicciotti
Office of the State Treasurer
PO Box 40200
Olympia, WA 98504-0200

The Honorable Marko Liias
Senate Transportation Committee
PO Box 40444
Olympia, WA 98504-0444

Subject: Semi-Annual Practical Design Savings Report required by RCW 47.01.480

Dear Honorable Jake Fey, Mike Pellicciotti, and Marko Liias

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), this letter summarizes practical design savings to date on Connecting Washington (CW) funded projects. This report was prepared in a manner consistent with the requirements outlined in RCW 47.01.480.

This report also identifies savings remaining at the completion of a Connecting Washington project for which the State Treasurer will transfer from the applicable account to the Transportation Future Funding Program Account. Once funding is transferred to the new account, consistent with RCW 47.01.480, the Legislature may select additional projects to be delivered through the budget development process.

Since our last semi-annual Practical Design Savings Report was submitted in July 2025, no Connecting Washington revenue package projects were fully completed and closed within the current reporting period, May 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025.

Based on the requirements in RCW 47.01.480, WSDOT has identified no project savings of Connecting Washington Account funds to be transferred by the State Treasurer's Office from the Connecting Washington Account to the Transportation Future Funding Program Account.

Honorable Fey, Pellicciotti, and Liias
January 23, 2026
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Report Details

Attachment A provides a summary of the conversion of the Legislative project budget to constant dollars for comparison to the engineer's project estimate at the time of construction advertisement in constant dollars. If the Legislative project budget is larger than the engineer's project estimate, the difference is reported as practical design savings. To keep the report from becoming too lengthy, projects previously reported on this attachment have been removed and are listed in Attachment B. Attachment A includes projects advertised or authorized for construction between May 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025.

One Highway Construction - Improvement Program project and one Local Programs project were advertised/authorized within the reporting period. As a result of the calculations, there were potential practical design savings on one project as shown in Attachment A. Cumulative practical design savings are included in the report.

Attachment B provides a summary of the CW projects advertised and had practical design savings calculated. These projects are in construction and will have actual savings calculated when the projects are complete and closed.

Attachment C provides background and assumptions used in preparation of this report.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Troy Suing, Director of Capital Program Development and Management, at (360) 705-7121 or troy.suing@wsdot.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Julie Meredith, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

JM:mw
Enclosure

Attachment A

**Constant Dollar Conversion Assumptions
for Calculating Savings Attributable to Practical Design**

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Legislative Project Cost Estimate in YOE \$ (inflated) ³	Cost in 2014 \$ (uninflated) ⁴	Engineers Estimate at Advertisement in 2014 \$ (uninflated) ⁵	Practical Design Savings ⁶
Highway Construction - Improvement Program						111,359,000
		Previously Reported Practical Design Savings				111,359,000
	L2220062	SR 14/Bingen Overpass	22,900,000	20,610,570		
		SR 14/Bingen Overpass		15,170,570	14,489,548	681,022
		SR 14/Port of Klickitat Access Improvements-BNSF Bridge		5,440,000	5,262,000	0 ⁸
Highway Construction - Preservation Program						
		Previously Reported Practical Design Savings				2,399,000
		No projects advertised during this reporting period				
Ferry Capital Program						
		Previously Reported Practical Design Savings				578,000
		No projects advertised during this reporting period				
Facilities Capital Program						
		No projects advertised during this reporting period				
Rail Capital Program						
		Previously Reported Practical Design Savings				548,000
		No projects advertised during this reporting period				

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Legislative Project Contribution	Local Jurisdiction Self-Reported Savings ⁷
Local Programs				
	N400526I	North Lewis County Industrial Access	44,079,000	
		Westside Connector Phase 1 Stage 1	6,170,000	0
Summary				
		Practical Design Savings in this Report		0
Cumulative Practical Design Savings by Program				
		Highway Construction - Improvement Program		111,359,000
		Highway Construction - Preservation Program		2,399,000
		Ferry Capital Program		578,000
		Facilities Capital Program		0
		Rail Capital Program		548,000
		Local Programs		0
		Cumulative Practical Design Savings through October 31, 2025		114,884,000

NOTE: This semi-annual report reflects delivery information for those projects advertised in the reporting cycle, May 1st, 2025 through October 31st, 2025. Summary Practical Design Savings will be reflected in each report.

Footnotes: ¹ Legislative project identification number.

Attachment A

² Project title from the 2015 Legislative Budget is shown in bold. The legislative project may be delivered using multiple construction projects. In this case, the construction projects are shown below the bolded legislative project. This additional detail is provided as construction projects are advertised.

³ Total project cost from the 2015 Legislative project list in Year of Expenditure (YOE) dollars.

⁴ Project cost portrayed in 2014 dollars deflated by the index in use by the department in December 2014.

⁵ Engineer's estimate of total project cost at advertisement in 2014 dollars. Deflated using the index in use by the department at the time of project AD/RFP.


⁶ Practical Design Savings are reported following construction advertisement in nominal dollars; prior to the completion of construction. Practical solutions are calculated by comparing the legislative uninflated project cost estimate with the uninflated project estimate at advertisement or release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design-build projects. The two uninflated project estimates are stated in the same year current dollars for calculating the practical design savings exclusive

⁷ Information on Connecting WA projects managed by local jurisdictions is self-reported by the local jurisdiction.

⁸ Connecting WA funded the construction phase only. No Practical Design Savings are calculated for construction only projects.

⁹ Previously reported

¹⁰ Contribution to Local project. No Practical Design Savings are calculated for contribution only projects.

 Indicates new information to this report.

**Semi-Annual Project Savings Report
to the State Treasurer and Legislative Transportation Committees
Active Projects**

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ³	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
Highway Construction		Improvement Program					
	L1000099	I-5/Slater Road Interchange - Improvements					
		I-5/Slater Road Interchange - Roundabout	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L1000110	I-405/NE 132nd Interchange - Totem Lake	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2030
	L1000113	I-90/SR 18 I/C to Deep Creek - Interchange Improvements & Widening	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2035
	L1000291	SR 224/ Red Mountain Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2027
	L1100110	I-5/Marvin Road/SR 510 Interchange	23,488,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L1100101	SR 520/148th Ave NE Overlake Access Ramp	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000057	SR 26/Dusty to Colfax - Add Climbing Lanes	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		SR 26/Dusty to Colfax - Add Passing Lane	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000061	SR 28/SR 285, North Wenatchee Area Improvements					
		US 2/97 Easy Street - Roundabout	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2029
	L2000094	I-90/Medical Lake & Geiger Interchanges					
		I-90/Medical Lake I/C to Geiger Field I/C - Reconstruction	394,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		I-90/Medical Lake I/C to Geiger Field I/C - Reconstruction - Phase 2	1,995,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000102	SR 14/I-205 to SE 164th Avenue- Auxiliary Lanes	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000117	SR 501/I-5 to Port of Vancouver	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000122	I-90/Barker to Harvard - Improve Interchanges & Local Roads					
		I-90/Barker to Harvard - Improve Interchanges and Local Roads	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		I-90/Barker to Harvard - WB on- Ramp Improvement	458,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		I-90/Barker to Harvard - Add Lane Harvard Rd Bridge	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		I-90/Barker to Harvard Phase 2 - Improve Interchanges and Local	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026

Attachment B

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ²	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
	L2000123	I-82/ EB WB On and Off Ramps	8,769,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000127	US 395/Ridgeline Intersection	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2027
	L2000160	I-5/Ship Canal Noise Wall	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000170	SR 125/9th Street Plaza - Intersection Improvements					
		SR 125/Plaza Way - Intersection Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		SR 125/Plaza Way Vic Stage 2 - Sidewalk Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000201	I-90/Eastgate to SR 900 - Corridor Improvements	9,473,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000202	SR 240/Richland Corridor Improvements					
		SR 240/Richland Corridor Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		SR 240/SR 225 Intersection - Construct Roundabout	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000223	I-5 /Chamber Way Interchange Vicinity Improvements					
		I-5/SW Parkland Drive to Harrison Ave Ramp Meters	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2032
	L2220062	SR 14/Bingen Overpass					
		SR 14/Port of Klickitat Access Improvements BNSF Bridge	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	N/A
	M00100R	I-5 JBLM Corridor Improvements					
		I-5/Steilacoom-Dupont Rd to Thorne Ln - Corridor Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2028
		I-5/Mounts Rd to Steilacoom-DuPont Rd - Corridor Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2028
		I-5/Steilacoom DuPont Rd to Gravelly Lake Dr - Corridor	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2028
	M00400R	SR 520 Seattle Corridor Improvements - West End					
		SR 520/Montlake to Lake Washington - I/C and Bridge Replacement	2,268,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2031
		SR 520/I-5 to Montlake - Bridge Replacement	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2031
		SR 520/I-5 Interchange - Improvement	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2031
	M00500R	I-90 Snoqualmie Pass - Widen to Easton					
		I-90/Cabin Cr I/C to W Easton I/C Phase 3 - Add Lanes/Wildlife Bridges	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2032
		I-90/Stampede Pass I/C EB - Replace Concrete Panels	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2032

Attachment B

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ³	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
		I-90/Easton Hill to W Easton I/C WB - Replace Bridge and Build Detour	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2032
		I-90/Cabin Creek I/C EB - Replace Concrete Panels	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2032
	M00600R	SR 167/SR 509 Puget Sound Gateway					
		SR 167/SR 161 to SR 410 - Rebuild Interchange	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 167/I-5 to SR 161 - New Expressway	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 167/I-5 to SR 509 - Stage 1B	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 167/I-5 to SR 509 - Stage 1A	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 509/I-5 & SR 516 I/C to 28th/24th Ave S - SR 509 Completion Stage 1	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 509/28th/24th Ave S to S 188th St - SR 509 Completion Stage 2	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 509/King County Trail (WSDOT Contribution)	0 ¹¹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
		SR 509/ST Stage 1 Elements (WSDOT Contribution)	0 ¹¹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2033
	M00800R	US 395 North Spokane Corridor					
		US 395/NSC Columbia to Freya	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC BNSF - 2nd Railroad Realignment	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Wellesley Ave Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Spokane River to Columbia	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Spokane River to Columbia - Shared Use Path	2,465,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Spokane River to Columbia - Phase 2	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Sprague Ave to Spokane River - Stage 3	12,360,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Spokane River Crossing	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		US 395/NSC Sprague Ave to Spokane River - Phase 1	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		Eastern Region TMC Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
		I-90/Magnolia Pedestrian Bridge - Emergency Removal	0 ¹³	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2031
	M00900R	I-405 Renton to Lynwood - Corridor Widening					

Attachment B

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ³	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
		SR 167 Toll Upgrade	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		SR 167/SR 516 to S 277th St - Southbound Aux Lane	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		I-405/Springbrook Creek Mitigation Bank - Long Term Management	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		I-405/SR 167 Direct Connector - Widening	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		I-405 Corridor - Wetland Mitigation Credits	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		I-405/Renton to Bellevue - Corridor Widening & ETL (Stage 2)	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
		I-405/Toll Vendor for Renton to Bellevue - Toll System	0 ⁸	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2039
	N30500R	SR 305 Construction - Safety and Mobility Improvements					
		SR 305/Johnson Rd - Roundabout	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2034
		SR 305/Port Madison, Agatewood Rd, Adas Will Ln - Safety Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2034
	N92040R	SR 9/SR 204 Intersection - Improvements	3,935,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2027
	T20700SC	I-5/116th Street and 88th Street Interchanges - Improvements					
		I-5/116th St NE Interchange - Tulalip Tribe Lead	0 ¹¹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2027
	T20900R	US-12/Walla Walla Corridor Improvements					
		US 12/Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown Vic - Build New Highway	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2029
Highway Construction - Preservation Program							
	G2000055	Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Upgrade	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000174	SR 241/Mabton Vicinity - Retrofit Bridges	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000075	US 12/Wildcat Bridge Replacement	2,399,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
Ferry Capital Program							
	L2000109	#4 - 144 capacity vessel	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2030
	900010L	Seattle Tml Preservation					
		SR 519/Seattle Trm - Terminal Bldg & N. Trestle Replacement	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026

Attachment B

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ³	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
		SR 519/Seattle Trm Slip 3 - OHL & Transfer Span Replacement	578,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		SR 339/Seattle Trm - Passenger-Only Ferry Facilities Replacement	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	952515P	Mukilteo Tml Improvement	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2027
	L2000166	Clinton Tml Road Improvements	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
Facilities Capital Program							
No currently active projects							
Rail Capital Program							
	L1000147	South Kelso Railroad Crossing	52,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2028
	L1100080	Port of Moses Lake	496,000	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	1/1/2029
	L2000191	Palouse River and Coulee City RR	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2031
Local Programs¹⁰							
	L1000087	I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange					
		Port of Tacoma Rd Interchange - Phase 2A	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L1000148	SR 523 145th Street	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000065	SR 502 Main Street/Widening					
		SR 502/SR 503 Turn Lanes	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
		NW 12th Ave/NW 1st St	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000066	Lewis Street Bridge	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000104	Covington Connector	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000137	Sammamish Bridge Corridor	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000205	I-5/Mellen Street Connector	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2000228	Thornton Road Overpass	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	L2220059	SR 516/Jenkins Creek to 185th	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	N52400R	SR 524: 48th Ave W - 37th Ave W	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
	NEDMOND	SR 99 Revitalization in Edmonds	0	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	TBD ⁹	7/1/2026
Funds to transfer to the Transportation Future Funding Program Account for this reporting period.						0	
Previously Identified Funds for Transfer						\$17,488,257	
Cumulative funds identified for transfer to the Transportation Future Funding Program Account						\$17,488,257	

Attachment B

Program	Legislative BIN ¹	Project Title ²	Practical Design Savings ³	Unused Contingency ⁴	Retired Risk Savings ⁵	Total Savings Available ⁶	Estimated Savings Available Date ⁷
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NOTE: This semi-annual report reflects delivery information for those projects advertised in the reporting cycle, May 1st, 2025 through October 31st, 2025. Summary Practical Design Savings will be reflected in each report.

Footnotes:

¹ Legislative project identification number.

² Project title from the 2015 Legislative Budget is shown in bold. The legislative project may be delivered using multiple construction projects. In this case, the construction projects are shown below the bolded legislative project. This additional detail is provided as construction projects are advertised.

³ Practical design savings are reported shortly following construction advertisement; prior to the completion of construction. Practical solutions are calculated by comparing the legislative uninflated project cost estimate with the uninflated project estimate at advertisement or release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design-build projects. The two uninflated project estimates are stated in the same year current dollars for calculating the practical design savings exclusive of inflationary impacts.

⁴ Contingency funds established with each construction project consistent with WSDOT policy and standard industry practice. Unused contingency funds will be reported at the completion of the project.

⁵ Risk reserves are established for larger construction projects for identified potential construction delivery risks, consistent with WSDOT policy and standard industry practice. Risks that are unrealized are retired and the funding remains on the legislative identified project until completion of the entire legislative scope of work is completed. Unused risk reserves will be reported at the completion of the project.

⁶ Total savings available represents the unused funding available at the completion of the entire legislative scope of work on a project. This amount reflects the funding that the treasurer must transfer from the Connection Washington Account or the Multimodal Transportation Account to the Transportation Futures Funding Program Account.

⁷ Estimate savings available date reflects the anticipated date in which the savings will be available for transfer. It is based on the date in which the project or BIN is anticipated to be complete.

⁸ Connecting WA funded the construction phase only. No Practical Design Savings are calculated for construction only projects.

⁹ The project is currently in construction. Actual savings for unused contingency, unused risk, and savings available to transfer will be known when project is completed for PINs. Actual savings for BINs will be known when all projects in the BIN are complete.

¹⁰ Information on Connecting WA projects managed by local jurisdictions is self-reported by the local jurisdiction.

¹¹ Contribution to Local project. No Practical Design Savings are calculated for contribution only projects.

¹² Study only. Practical Design Savings are not calculated for studies.

¹³ The poor condition of the pedestrian structure required this projects work to be completed earlier than the original project provided. The scope on this project was removed from the original project.

 Indicates updated information since last report.

Attachment C

Practical Design Report Background, Assumptions and WSDOT Efforts to Implement Practical Design

Background

As part of the Connecting Washington transportation revenue package passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in July 2015, Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2012 was enacted and codified as RCW 47.01.480 and RCW 47.01.485. This law provides direction on performance and reporting expectations on implementing practical design for CW-funded projects. The law requires two reports to be prepared; a semi-annual report submitted July 1 and January 1 identifying practical design savings, retired risk and unused contingencies. The second report is required annually with the department's budget submittal and includes the savings mentioned above plus the addition of savings generated through scope changes, associated impacts on risk and changes in the cost of materials.

This letter is in response to the semi-annual report, which requires information on practical design savings, unused risk reserves, unused contingency, and identification of savings for the State Treasurer to transfer from the Connecting Washington Account to the Transportation Future Funding Program Account. If no savings are identified to be transferred at the time of reporting, an estimated date for savings to materialize is provided. The specific language for the semi-annual report is as follows:

RCW 47.01.480 (2)(b) - Beginning July 1, 2016, the department must submit a report to the state treasurer and the transportation committees of the legislature once every six months identifying the amount of savings attributable to the application of practical design, retired risk, and unused contingency funding, and report when the savings become available. The state treasurer must transfer the available amounts identified in the report to the transportation future funding program account created in RCW 46.68.396.

Furthermore, the law outlines the basic methodology associated with how the practical design savings element of the report should be calculated. The following is an excerpt from the law:

RCW 47.01.480 (1)(c) - To determine the savings attributable to practical design, each connecting Washington project must be evaluated. For design-bid-build projects, the evaluation must occur at the end of the project design phase. For design-build projects, the evaluation must occur at the completion of thirty percent design...

Given the above direction, the reporting requirements associated with this semi-annual report include elements which are to be reported at the completion of the project design phase (savings attributable to practical design) and project construction (retired risk and unused contingency funding). Since WSDOT often delivers legislative line-item projects using multiple construction contracts, the final reporting element (savings

Attachment C

available to transfer) will not be available until the last construction contract to deliver the legislative line-item project has been completed.

It should be noted that this report does not convey a complete summary of events associated with the quality, efficiency, and/or challenges of project delivery. For example, the report does not include information comparing the winning project bid to the engineers estimate at contract award and the risks, which are either mitigated or materialized. WSDOT assumes that other existing reporting mechanisms will provide this additional information on project delivery.

The report includes Connecting Washington line-item projects in the following programs: Highway Construction Improvement and Preservation, Washington State Ferries Capital, Rail Capital, Facility Capital and Local Programs Capital as reflected on the latest legislative project list once design is completed. Programmatic items included in the legislative project list such as the Highway System Preservation, fish barrier removal, ferry vessel and terminal preservation, grant programs for bicycle/pedestrian, transit and rail projects are assumed to be fixed levels of investment intended to deliver as much of the identified work as possible over the 16-year period. Therefore, programmatic entries will not be included in this report. Additionally, to capture the savings attributable to practical design decisions, WSDOT will remove the impact of inflation from the calculation of project savings. The detailed information in these reports will capture practical design savings based on a constant dollar comparison between the original (uninflated) legislative project budget and the (uninflated) project estimate at the time of advertisement. Furthermore, WSDOT assumes that the issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP) represents completion of 30 percent design for calculating the savings attributable to practical design on design-build projects. Additional assumptions associated with this report include:

- Projects that have already been designed using non-CW funding and have only construction funded through CW will not have any practical design savings reported. Savings from these projects will be reflected in other currently required reporting elements.
- Projects where CW does not complete the design will be reported at the end of the design phase, or when available funding is used. Other required reporting elements will not be reported on until construction funding becomes available.
- Planning studies for which there is unused funding will be included in this report at the conclusion of the study.
- Local projects will be “self-reported” by the local jurisdiction to WSDOT’s Local Programs Office and will be compared to the most recent available project cost estimate.

Implementing Practical Solutions throughout WSDOT

Practical solutions strategies (which included practical design) are applied throughout the project development and delivery process. Where practical solution refinements are identified in the process will determine if savings are the result of cost avoidance (i.e. an

Attachment C

initial lower project estimate to be funded than otherwise anticipated) or a reduction to a project budget (i.e. project savings that occurred after the initial project estimate was funded). Practical design applications begin during the scoping and pre-design stage of project development. During this stage, agency pre-design efforts are funded from non-project resources rather than from a specific project budget. Practical design savings through cost avoidance are removed from the project estimate prior to establishing the initial project budget. After the initial project budget is established and design begins on that project, practical design can result in reduced costs to deliver the project. Assuming no inflationary increases on the project over its delivery schedule, and assuming no unforeseen project challenges, the reduced delivery cost should result in project savings. It is important to recognize that greater savings are often generated through practical solution and practical design efforts during the earlier stages of project development, prior to the project receiving funding. This concept has been documented, in part, in the 2010 JLARC report on WSDOT scoping and cost estimating for highway construction projects. As WSDOT continues to refine its approach to implementing practical solutions and practical design, we expect to observe a diminishing level of savings. This is due to future projects being developed from their inception utilizing these principles. In other words, we will not have potentially over-designed projects to compare to those projects that were developed using practical design. This will result in fewer savings being available over time from funded projects.