



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 • (360) 902-0555

December 17, 2014

TO: Keenan Konopaski, Legislative Auditor
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

FROM: David Schumacher
Director 

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CAN PROVIDE RELIABLE LONG-TERM PAVEMENT ESTIMATES, BUT ACCURACY OF BRIDGE ESTIMATES IS UNCERTAIN – PRELIMINARY REPORT

The Office of Financial Management appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's (JLARC's) preliminary report titled "WSDOT Can Provide Reliable Long-Term Pavement Estimates, but Accuracy of Bridge Estimates is Uncertain."

Recommendation	Agency Position	Comments
1. Improve bridge estimates - WSDOT should use best practices to make its bridge estimates as reliable as its pavement estimates.	Concur	It is critical that we base our budgets and financial plans upon reliable data. We must have a long-term bridge preservation plan that minimizes lifecycle costs and that ensures the highest priority projects are funded first.
2. Document and communicate – WSDOT and OFM should develop a process to improve stakeholders' confidence in its highway estimates.	Concur	Ongoing communication is critical. The Office of Financial Management will work with WSDOT to identify opportunities for improvement, emphasizing clarity, predictability, timeliness, transparency and accountability.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this preliminary report. Please don't hesitate to contact Robin Rettew of my staff, at 902-0609, with any questions.

cc: Tracy Guerin, Deputy Director, OFM
Robin Rettew, Senior Budget Assistant, OFM

