



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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03/10/2025

TO: Office of Financial Management (OFM)
ExemptionRequest@ofm.wa.gov

FROM: Julie Meredith, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT

SUBJECT: March 10th, 2025, WSDOT Governors Freeze Submittal

This memo serves as the signature by the Agency Director for the exceptions reported by Washington State Department of Transportation.

Included attachment outlines the exceptions and describes why the exceptions were necessary to provide critical services related to the two-week reporting timeframe.

Two-week reporting period:
February 23rd, 2025 – March 8th, 2025

Report Submittal Date:
March 10th, 2025

Summary of detailed exceptions:
Goods and Equipment Total Cost: \$559,089.77

Services Contracts Total Cost: \$1,622,737.91

Travel Approved Total Cost: \$776.00

Number of Positions Hired: 20

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Meredith".

Julie Meredith, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Hiring Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
 Program:
 Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Date of Hire	SAP Position Number (8 digits)	Position Title	Job Class Code	Job Class Title	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
	2/1/2025	70062481	FISCAL SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR	151H	FISCAL SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR	TRANSPORTATION	Position supervises the office handling the payroll, ordering and other operational needs for Area 2 within the South Central Region.
	2/3/2025	71101595	SENIOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	594F	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SYST TECH, FI	TRANSPORTATION	Installs and maintains wireless communication systems used by field staff.
	2/16/2025	70060217	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	530N	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	TRANSPORTATION	Ensures delivery of construction contracts per standards and legal requirements.
	2/16/2025	70061193	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 3	530M	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 3	TRANSPORTATION	Ensures delivery of construction contracts per standards and legal requirements.
	2/16/2025	70063287	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 3	530M	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 3	TRANSPORTATION	Position is the Traffic Design Engineer for the Region.
	2/16/2025	70063347	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	530N	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	TRANSPORTATION	Coordinate federal and state grant programs for local jurisdictions.
	2/16/2025	71109025	ARA - OPERATIONS AND PLANNING	WMS04	WMS BAND 4	TRANSPORTATION	Acting appointment to ensure legally required duties are performed.
	2/18/2025	71108908	VESSEL PROJECT ENGINEER	533G	VESSEL PROJECT ENGINEER	TRANSPORTATION	Position performs duties necessary for WSF vessel preservation and construction.
	2/18/2025	71044642	PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY SPECIALIST 2	114F	PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY SPECIALIST 2	TRANSPORTATION	Coordinates procurement for Southwest Region Maintenance.
	2/18/2025	71087928	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	530L	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	TRANSPORTATION	Performs design duties for projects including safety, preservation, fish passage, and improvement.
	2/18/2025	71108080	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	530L	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	TRANSPORTATION	Environmental inspector for SR 509 projects.
	2/19/2025	71008052	PROPERTY & ACQUISITION SPECIALIST 3	179K	PROPERTY & ACQUISITION SPECIALIST 3	TRANSPORTATION	Necessary to ensure leasing for airspace, ground, trail, and facilities complies with state and federal requirements.
	3/1/2025	70056657	STATE PAVEMENT ENGINEER	WMS04	WMS BAND 4	TRANSPORTATION	Manages the statewide pavement engineering program.
	3/1/2025	71009430	IT POLICY & PLANNING - SRMGR	487PP	IT POLICY & PLANNING - SRMGR	TRANSPORTATION	Leads WSDOT's data management and AI initiatives.
	3/3/2025	70062669	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 3	530L	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	TRANSPORTATION	Leads a team performing project scoping and design documentation in South Central Region.
	3/3/2025	70115276	SECRETARY SENIOR	100T	SECRETARY SENIOR	TRANSPORTATION	Primary clerical staff for South Central Project Engineer office.
	3/3/2025	70132851	SECRETARY SENIOR	100T	SECRETARY SENIOR	TRANSPORTATION	Primary clerical staff for Southwest Project Engineer office.
	3/3/2025	71108377	WSF DEPUTY ELECTRICIAN PROGRAM ADMIN	WMS04	WMS BAND 4	TRANSPORTATION	Leads the systems electrification plan for Ferries.
	3/3/2025	71108436	WSF OACI PRG MGR	WMS02	WMS BAND 2	TRANSPORTATION	Performs quality assurance functions for Ferries operations.
	3/16/2025	71096383	TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN 3	538T	TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN 3	TRANSPORTATION	Performs traffic management duties in the Olympic Region control center.

Contracts Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
 Program:
 Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Name of Contractor	Brief Description of Services	Term of Contract	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
2/24/2025	H.W. Lochner, Inc.	PS&E services on SR526 for Highway ImprovementThe SR 526 corridor experiences severe congestion	November 29, 2017 to April 30, 2025	953,000.00	20H	This work was necessary to complete the PS&E for the project. Some of the work has already been performed and as such, we need to compensate the consultant. Additionally, it has been decided to shelve the project. Additional work was required to put the project on the shelf such that the deliverables received to date may be preserved for potential future use.
2/26/2025	Conсор North America Inc.	This is for the I-5 Maddox Creek fish barrier correction design effort. The consultant started work	Approximately 02/26/2025 through 02/28/2026	30,232.00	I4	This consultant agreement is necessary to move forward with the design of a fish barrier removal project. Without approving this exception, the design work could not be completed.
2/26/2025	KPFF/Chudgar	This is for the SR 162/SR 410 Interchange - Construct Roundabouts project being completed through	02/26/2025 to 06/30/2025	10,500.00	I	Design of this luminaire foundation is necessary to complete the design of this project so that it can be allowed to move forward to construction.
2/26/2025	WHPacific	This is for a consultant agreement to design a single-span bridge that is needed for the SR 202	10/2/2025 to 12/31/2025	24,077.00	I4	This design work is needed to complete design of this project and allow it to move forward to construction.
2/27/2025	One Diversified, LLC	Southwest Region Lobby Conference Room serves as a critical space at SWR Headquarters for internal and external meetings, collaboration, and strategic planning. The requested technology upgrade will enhance communication capabilities, improve virtual meeting experiences, and ensure effective coordination among teams. The current system is outdated and does not support the agency's needs for modern digital conferencing. Within the Lobby Conference Room, Diversified will provide and two 86" LG Commercial grade displays, four (4) Shure overhead microphone arrays, two (2) QSC high zoom cameras and will design this room around a QSC standard, making it easy to use, program, and operate. The goal is to enable Microsoft Teams meetings functionality and to facilitate ease of hybrid meetings.	3 months	156,928.91	108 C2	The current system is outdated and does not support the agency's needs for modern digital conferencing. Failure to upgrade the conference room technology will result in continued inefficiencies in virtual and in-person meetings. Poor audio and visual quality may hinder communication with remote teams, delay decision-making processes, and reduce overall productivity. Additionally, the lack of reliable conferencing technology may impact the agency's ability to coordinate effectively with external partners. Alternative solutions, such as using portable audio/video equipment or relying on personal devices, were evaluated but deemed insufficient. These options do not provide the necessary integration, security, or reliability required for agency operations. Upgrading the built-in technology is the most effective and sustainable solution to support the agency's communication needs.
2/28/2025	Parametrix	Prepare conceptual design plans for the Burley fish barrier correction project. This project includes two bridges and two buried structures. Parametrix is currently under contract with WSDOT and this would be handled as a new task order to an existing staff augmentation agreement.	03/10/2025 to 12/31/2025	140,000.00	I4	Addressing these fish barriers is work that is required under federal court injunction. This specific site is a multi-owner situation with both WSDOT and the County having responsibility for parts of the correction. The county has grant funding that would be at risk if this project doesn't move forward on time. Further, this is a high-priority site for WSDOT and will be near the top of the list when we receive additional funding for construction. The approach here of only completing conceptual plans keeps the project moving forward while limiting expenditures and maintain flexibility in delivery method should things change in the future.
12/19/2024	TY Lin International	Design of new bridge at US 395 milepost 247.7	3/15/25 thru 6/30/26	250,000.00	108	To keep the design effort for this important fish passage project moving forward.
3/5/2025	WSP USA, Inc.	NWR GEC Staff Augmentation; SR 20/Burlington to Sedro-Woolley - Corridor Improvements	Y12775 Task SF End Date: 8/31/2025	58,000.00	108	Amendment to add funds for additional hours needed with permitting and hydraulic documentation, and for time extension needed to complete work per task order Scope. No changes to the existing Scope. Review and Approved by Todd Trepanier.
				1,622,737.91		

Goods and Equipment Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
 Program:
 Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Description of Goods or Equipment	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
2/28/2025	Dynamic Environmental Water Sampling Backpack: This is a portable eDNA sampling equipment that will allow WSDOT to assess streams for salmon presence in the field using simpler, less labor-intensive and more affordable methods than the spawner surveys employed to date. Adoption of this technology will allow WSDOT to discontinue reliance on and reimbursement to WDFW for on-the-ground salmon spawner surveys and shift to using eDNA tools to detect fish use upstream of completed fish passage projects. We estimate that purchase and adoption of this equipment will save WSDOT \$33,000 biennially.		10389 108	Purchase of this equipment will significantly reduce the labor and effort associated with verifying the presence of salmon in our streams. This work is necessary as part of our fish barrier removal program. Under the current approach, WSDOT spends about \$46K/biennium in labor and materials to perform spawner surveys. With this new technology, we expect this cost to be reduced to \$12,300, saving WSDOT about \$33K/biennium.
2/18/2025	HPE Synergy Blades - increase compute capacity at the SDC HPE Alletra - Increase storage capacity at the SDC HPE Alletra Controller Upgrades - Increase performance and upgradability of current storage appliances at the SDC	548700.77	108	<p>As part of the DCM project aimed at moving workloads off outdated infrastructure, our file servers were transitioned to AVS to ensure continued operations while we shut down the Maple Park datacenter. This transition required WSDOT to add NetApp storage to our AVS nodes to support the 300 TB file servers. Currently, the cost for NetApp storage is \$47,000 per month.</p> <p>To reduce this expense, we have determined that the best course of action is to purchase additional hardware to be housed at the State Data Center and upgrade our existing hardware to be more resilient and sustainable. This new hardware will not only support the file servers with both storage and compute capabilities but will also facilitate the migration of our on-premises VMware infrastructure to Hyper-V. This transition is projected to yield significant cost savings by reducing licensing fees.</p> <p>By upgrading our existing hardware we are able to better support the needs of special projects such as Mobile Lidar by posturing our hardware to expand its capabilities. The upgraded controllers will also provide resiliency with the hardware as the are replaced with a redundant pair that supports higher input output operations.</p>
		559,089.77		

Travel Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
Program:
Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Position Title	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
3/5/2025	Procurement Specialist II	776.00	030	Necessary training not available through our region.