



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

03/24/2025

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

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

SUBJECT: March 24th, 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:
March 9th, 2025 – March 22nd, 2025

Report Submittal Date:
March 24th, 2025

Summary of detailed exceptions:
Goods and Equipment Total Cost: \$695,574.64

Services Contracts Total Cost: \$30,461,297.77

Travel Approved Total Cost: \$5,051.24

Number of Positions Hired: 7

Thank you,

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
	3/1/2025	70058151	PE	WMS03	WMS BAND 3	3/24/2025	Project Engineer - delivers highway and construction contracts per State and Federal standards.
	3/1/2025	70058204	ASST PE	WMS02	WMS BAND 2	3/24/2025	Certifies design plans and specifications for construction meet WSDOT standards.
	3/1/2025	70064057	CONTROLLER	WMS03	WMS BAND 3	3/24/2025	Oversees WSF Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Revenue Control, Purchasing and Administrative functions.
	3/1/2025	70064066	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TERMINAL ENGR & CONST	WMS04	WMS BAND 4	3/24/2025	Key to the development and delivery of the Terminal Engineering program.
	3/3/2025	71076057	TUNNELS SUPERINTENDENT	WMS03	WMS BAND 3	3/24/2025	Manages the tunnels in the Northwest Region.
	3/3/2025	71107530	IT APP DEVELOPMENT - JOURNEY	483AD	IT APP DEVELOPMENT - JOURNEY	3/24/2025	Supports WSF technology applications at Ferries that drive revenue.
	3/17/2025	70060524	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	530K	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 1	3/24/2025	Quality verification lead for active highway construction projects.

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
3/11/2025	Paramount Communications In	Directional boring at I-82 Exit 80	Complete work of boring across the interchange.	11,262.00	108	Work was scheduled and completed before the freeze in December 2024
3/12/2025	WSP	The Seattle Multimodal Terminal facility on the Seattle waterfront has 167 steel piles that were installed in 2017 without coating systems. These piles are corroding at an extremely fast rate and are urgently in need of mitigation to address the corrosion and retain the design life of this facility. Not addressing this issue in a timely manner could lead to structural failure of the facility. WSP will be responsible for the design, plan, specification and estimate for this project.	2 years	260,575.00	099	The Seattle Multimodal Terminal facility on the Seattle waterfront has 167 steel piles that were installed in 2017 without coating systems. These piles are corroding at an extremely fast rate and are urgently in need of mitigation to address the corrosion and retain the design life of this facility. Not addressing this issue in a timely manner could lead to structural failure of the facility. WSP will be responsible for the design, plan, specification and estimate for this project.
3/13/2025	David Evans and Associates, Inc.	Additional stormwater design required by the Consultant to complete the PS&E for the SR 14/E. of Bingen, Port of Klickitat Access Improvements Project.	4/28/2022 through 4/30/2025	22,909.77	20H	Consultant has been the lead design engineer for the drainage work for the Project. The Consultant needs to complete additional stormwater design in order for WSDOT to advertise and construct the Project. Non approval of this additional design by the Consultant will not allow WSDOT to complete the drainage design and would have an ultimate impact on Project advertisement. The Project team is targeting the end of March for a revised advertisement date for the Project.
3/12/2025	Hill International, Inc.	General Engineering Consultant services for the WSF System Electrification Program that includes: •Terminal engineering for Seattle, Bainbridge, Bremerton, and Clinton that involves pre-design, 30% design and development of RFPs for design-build and design-bid-build contracts; Communications/community engagement support. •Vessel design for the 160 Auto Ferry (ongoing) •Vessel Construction Management for the 160 Auto Ferry new builds •JMII project management support to close out the Wenatchee retrofit.	Until January 31, 2028	23,420,000.00	099	The contract supplement is needed to advance the Program that is a priority for the Governor. Limited existing funding was reallocated to priority tasks to meet critical milestones, such as advertising for new 160AF vessels, completing the conversion of the Wenatchee JMII, and early design for Seattle, Bainbridge, Bremerton, and Clinton Terminals. However, the schedule has slowed due to funding constraints and currently available funding is nearly exhausted. An exception to the spending freeze is needed for continued critical path work on these Terminals (particularly Bainbridge and Clinton) and to management of new vessels construction.
3/20/2025	Shannon & Wilson	Provide support to the WSDOT Geotechnical Office in completing geotechnical documents for the Request for Proposals for the SR 18 / Issaquah Hobart Rd to Deep Creek Vicinity – Widening Project (XL5966).	June 30, 2025	24,381.00	108	This is a highly complex DB project, with geotechnical considerations being the highest risk factor. S&W has been supporting this project from the outset and now requires additional budget to continue addressing bidder inquiries. Without S&W's availability to respond to these questions, the project risk would increase, especially as the PEO works to attract more bidders following revisions to their RFQ documents.
3/21/2025	WSP	Extension of an existing agreement executed in November 2024. WSP will work for the WSDOT Environmental Services Office to provide NEPA/SEPA support including environmental documentation procedures/guidance development, workforce development support (develop deployment strategies and training as needed) and environmental documentation review as needed to support project delivery.	Contract extension through 06/30/2025	49,200.00	108	The Environmental Services Office (ESO) is currently down one FTE, and this consultant is being used to temporarily complete work typically handled by this FTE that directly supports project delivery. This extension is necessary because of the significant additional NEPA work that has been required to adjust to recent federal actions and federal executive orders. The consequences of not extending this contract are that ESO would be unable to provide the level of service needed to keep WSDOT's project delivery program on track.
3/14/2025	Hill International, Inc.	Under Task Order (TO) AV, Hill International (CONSULTANT) will provide General Engineering Consultant (GEC) assistance to the Washington State Ferries System Electrification Program (WSFSEP) by developing the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Design and Design-Build (DB) Contract documents for Bainbridge Island Utility and Terminal PE (BIUTPE) – Phase 2. The Task duration is October 14, 2024 – June 30, 2026. The majority of TO AV Deliverables – Phase 2 will be completed by September 30, 2025.	June 30, 2026	6,644,615.00	26A	The Bainbridge Island Utility and Terminal Preliminary Engineering for DB Delivery – Phase 2 Task Order AV to Agreement Y-12756 is needed to advance the Program that is a priority for the Governor. Limited existing funding was reallocated to priority tasks during the financial freeze to meet critical milestones, such as early design for Seattle, Bainbridge, Bremerton, and Clinton Terminals. However, the schedule has slowed due to funding constraints and currently available funding is nearly exhausted. An exemption to the freeze is needed for continued critical path work on these Terminals (particularly Bainbridge and Clinton).
3/21/2025	Hill International, Inc.	This Amendment 05 provides additional funding for the CONSULTANT to evaluate HE160AF vessel configuration suitability for the Vashon Triangle route under a new Work Element AN14. This evaluation will be completed by March 15, 2025, pending timely execution of this task order, and as directed by WSFSEP	June 30, 2025	28,355.00	26A	The 160 Auto Ferry New Construction Task AN Amendment 05 on Agreement Y-12756 is needed to advance the Program that is a priority for the Governor. Limited existing funding was reallocated to priority tasks during the financial freeze to meet critical milestones, such as advertising for new 160AF vessels. However, the schedule has slowed due to funding constraints and currently available funding is nearly exhausted. An exemption to the freeze is needed for continued critical path work for management of new vessels construction.

30,461,297.77

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
3/12/2025	The LMR P25 project replaced our legacy LMR system with a statewide P25 LMR system. The Project and Contract provides goods and serves for the initial 4-year term as well as up to ten 1 year renewals to ensure we are maintaining the system to meet the agency needs. The WSDOT LMR P25 system is responsible for providing day to day and emergency communications to the agency as well as provides communications to some of our public safety stat and local partners. In addition, the WSDOT LMR system provides the State Agency Emergency Communications Network (STAEN) for the cabinet agencies in an emergency allowing them to communicate with the State EOC.	409,500.00	108	The P25 system provides day to day and emergency communications to WSDOT staff, AirLift Northwest, and STAEN and is critical to operations.
2/12/2025	Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains - WSF	17,487.62	109	Our Electronic Fare System that collects payment at our Terminals that flows into Great Plains which is WSF Accounting system. Great Plains provides revenue reporting, cash reporting, and tracks Commercial Business Accounts.
3/19/2025	Onmisight radar detection - 4 Mimosa radios - 6 Axis CCTV cameras - 2 Pole mounted cabinets - 6 Timber poles - 4 Miscellaneous modems, switches, and cabling	268,587.02	108	Funding for this project is through a Federal grant where funds are already approved and made available for project delivery
		695,574.64		

Travel Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
 Program:
 Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Position Title	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
3/12/2025	Transportation Engineer 2	251.00	P8	Geoprobe training in Spokane. Distance is too far for single day travel.
3/12/2025	Nick Hehemann Monitoring and Research Program Manager	250.00	108	Traveling to perform regular maintenance and repair of a stormwater monitoring site located in Spokane. This type of travel is part of my core job duties/responsibilities.
3/13/2025	ER Assistant Program Manager	570.00	108	Employee traveling to participate in person for the Eastern Region leadership team, org managers and assistant org managers event. This is an interactive opportunity to move forward, the region's core values in times of transition. This benefits WSDOT through workforce development including facilitating a sharing of ideas amongst different disciplines growing understandings of different aspects of WSDOT's work. It aligns with leadership, innovation, and engagement values. This also furthers the strategic goal of Workforce Development.
10/14/2024	Deputy Aviation Director	2,124.00	039	Employee professional development in action and approved prior to 12/2/2024. Costs are inclusive of the entire 6-month course with 3 two-day in-person meetings requiring travel.
3/17/2025	Transportation Engineer 2	501.24	303	ACI Field Testing Technician Grade 1 (written & performance exam)
3/3/2025	Secretary Senior	850.00	108	This employee is a member on the wellness team (for 3 years) and promotes wellness. She is the only team member representing the Eastern Region for WSDOT. She encourages employee engagement by acting on employee feedback. Gaining knowledge on how to fund the wellness program, networking to enhance employee belonging, and building a winning wellness strategy are just some of the workshops she will be attending.
3/18/2025	Transportation Engineer 2	505.00	303	Certification in ACI Field Testing Technician Grade 1
		5,051.24		