



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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5/19/2025

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

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

SUBJECT: May 19th, 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.

The 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:

May 4th, 2025 – May 17th, 2025

Report Submittal Date:

May 19th, 2025

Summary of detailed exceptions:

Goods and Equipment Total Cost: \$0.00

Services Contracts Total Cost: \$6,386,765.00

Travel Approved Total Cost: \$12,950.00

Number of Positions Hired: 7

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Meredith', on a light gray background.

Julie Meredith, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Mike Gribner for

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
	01-May-25	70095628	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	530L	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 2	TRANSPORTATION	Position ensures design and construction standards are met for Northwest Region highway projects.
	01-May-25	71039097	SOUTHWEST REGION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	WMS02	WMS BAND 2	TRANSPORTATION	Position leads the Southwest Region communications program.
	01-May-25	71040590	FISCAL SPECIALIST 1	151E	FISCAL SPECIALIST 1	TRANSPORTATION	Position is critical to Fiscal / Financial, Work Order criteria and timekeeping responsibilities.
	01-May-25	71063333	IT SYSTEM ADMIN - JOURNEY	483SA	IT SYSTEM ADMIN - JOURNEY	TRANSPORTATION	Position updates web maps for most of our public and internal applications.
	16-May-25	70061582	TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN 3	538T	TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN 3	TRANSPORTATION	Performs materials testing duties for Southwest Region construction projects.
	16-May-25	71106536	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	530N	TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER 4	TRANSPORTATION	Position is key to the budget development process for WSF Terminals and Vessels.
	19-May-25	70053675	HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTANT	M0291	HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTANT	TRANSPORTATION	Position provides mandatory human resources services to WSF employees.

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
5/2/2025	HDR Engineering Inc.	The Rail, Freight, and Ports Division is seeking consultant services for construction support for ra 2 years		120000	26Q	This consultant developed and stamped the engineered Signal Modification Plans packet, which was included in the state's PCC railroad contract (FR02064). This railroad contract on Phase II CRISI Project 1 on the CW Branch is expected to be executed toward the end of March 2025 after which work may commence. This consultant must review and comment on the contractor's proposed changes, modify existing stamped plans, conduct field inspections, and update and sign the as-built signal plans, which will be stored in the signal bungalows per Federal Rail Authority CFRs. The consultant will also design the signal modifications and develop plans and specifications for Project 2 on the P&L Branch. This will also include the tasks described above for Project 1 for the construction phase of Project 2.
5/6/2025	BGC Engineering	The Geotech Office has been awarded a \$50k grant from USGS to study two landslide-prone highway corridors, primarily using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR). WSDOT is providing the grant funds, bringing the total budget to \$100,000.		50000	108 & 26P	
4/30/2025	Environmental Science Associat	This amendment to an existing agreement will allow for ongoing archaeological monitoring to m 5/1/2026		3590948.28	20H	This work is necessary to comply with commitments made to Section 106 partners, including the Puyallup Tribe, to conduct archaeological monitoring in areas considered to be extremely sensitive and likely to have cultural resources that could be impacted by the project during construction. If these resources are encountered during construction without a monitor present to identify them and respond appropriately, this would result in substantial project delays, increased costs, and significant damage to the ongoing working relationship with our tribal partners. WSDOT initially contracted for 500 working days for the SR167 1B project. This exception will allow for WSDOT to amend the existing agreement so that additional monitoring days are included to cover an upcoming busy construction season during the summer of 2025, and add in monitoring days for the SR167 2A and 2B contracts. Additionally, as an archaeological site encountered as an unanticipated discovery on SR167 1B was larger than initially anticipated, additional budget is needed to cover analysis and reporting of a larger amount of material collected during data recovery. This amendment also includes scope and budget for a cultural resources survey to support I-405 Program projects that are currently in design phase and that will begin NEPA/SEPA reviews in 2025.
5/8/2025	True Clean	Strip and wax the passenger deck flooring for Washington State Ferry Kaleetan	1 week	11450	108	This amendment will allow cultural resources staff to be responsive to contractor schedules, to minimize risks of encountering unanticipated discoveries during construction, and to meet existing Program commitments.
5/10/2025	Shannon & Wilson	Adding scope to SR 202 Evans Creek (XL6389) geotechnical design previously under Y-12544 to ir 10/2025		26042	108	Necessary to carry out core functions of the agency S&W has been the geotechnical designer for this project since the beginning of the design phase, providing services under their previous agreement (Y-12544). This additional support is necessary due to the incorporation of a shoofly, which requires a stability check that was not identified during the initial project scope. In addition, this bridge design includes the use of ultra-light foamed glass aggregate (UL-FGA) in the structural earth walls. The additional effort will include: •Coordination with UL-FGA suppliers to obtain test data for up to eight different pre-approved proprietary earth wall systems; •Collaboration with the State to develop revised structural earth wall design parameters for the use of UL-FGA; •Analysis of internal stability for the UL-FGA within the wall structures. These tasks require a deep understanding of the project’s design details. Transitioning to a new engineer at this late stage would increase project risk and require additional effort and time for the new engineer to get up to speed.
3/27/2025	City of Spokane	Reimbursable contract which provides continuous input, oversight, and approval from the City o 12/31/2027		780000	20H - Connecting Washington /	This is an existing contract, reimbursing City of Spokane staff for reviewing and approving features of the North Spokane Corridor that are under City jurisdiction. Funding level does not increase with this amendment. The contract time ended 4/1/2025. The amendment extends this time through 12/31/2027. The budget is already accounted for within the overall budget forecasts. Work continues on the North Spokane Corridor, and so does our involvement with the City of Spokane. The project requires continued support from the City of Spokane.
1/15/2025	City of Spokane, GCB 3086, Tasl	Phase 1 of this task allows compensation to the City of Spokane for procuring an artist to develo; 12/31/2025		18760	20H - Connecting Washington /	This is a required, ongoing effort for the North Spokane Corridor and community engagement process with the East Central Neighborhood along I-90, where the North Spokane Corridor connects. WSDOT has committed to a continued engagement process as the facility bifurcates this historically undeserved and underrepresented neighborhood. These events have been scheduled for quite sometime.
3/21/2025	City of Spokane, GCB 3086, Tasl	Phase 2 of this task allows for compensation to the City of Spokane for procuring an artist to dev 12/31/2025		18960	20H - Connecting Washington /	This is an ongoing contract with the City of Spokane. Community Engagement is required for the North Spokane Corridor on all phases. The ongoing effort is supporting community interests through artistic elements used in the construction of the North Spokane Corridor project as it connects to I-90 through the East Central neighborhood, a historically underserved and underrepresented community.
5/6/2025	Harmer Steel Products Co.	Harmer Steel Products is supplying rail & other track materials (OTM) to the Palouse River and Cc 90-day from purchase order submittal to material delivery		308596.23	218	PCC’s railroad operators were contracted to provide freight services along the State's PCC short-line railway system. Under these contracts, the State has an annual obligation to supply materials to the railroad operators. These operators use the materials to address track defects identified by the Federal Railroad Administration and annual maintenance to ensure the system remains operational.
5/6/2025	Stella-Jones Corporation	Stell-Jones Corporation is supplying railroad and switch ties to the Palouse River and Coulee City 90 days from purchase order submittal to material delivery		309678.67	218	PCC’s railroad operators were contracted to provide freight services along the State's PCC short-line railway system. Under these contracts, the State has an annual obligation to supply materials to the railroad operators. These operators use the materials to address track defects identified by the Federal Railroad Administration and annual maintenance to ensure the system remains operational.
5/6/2025	Eagle Forest Products	Eagle Forest Products is supplying bridge timbers to the PCC Railroad Operators to fulfill annual l 90 day from purchase order submittal to material delivery		32197.94	218	WSDOT has hired Railroad Operators to provide freight services along the State's Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) short-line railway system. Under these contracts, the State has an annual obligation to supply materials to the short-line Railroad Operators. These operators use the materials to address track defects identified by the Federal Railroad Administration, ensuring the system remains operational.
5/6/2025	Palouse River Rock	Palouse River rock supplied railroad ballast to the PCC’s Railroad Operators to meet the annual l c 1 day		27628	218	WSDOT has hired Railroad Operators to provide freight services along the State's Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) short-line railway system. Under these contracts, the State has an annual obligation to supply materials to the short-line Railroad Operators. These operators use the materials to address track defects identified by the Federal Railroad Administration, ensuring the system remains operational.
5/16/2025	WSP	WSP shall provide A&E services needed for a recommendation and evaluation of delivery metho; 7/1/2023-1/31/2026		747295	26P	This task order amendment is needed to provide services to update delivery method for the Columbia River Bridge projects. Recent industry feedback has indicated that continuing to procurement under the previous assumption of delivery method utilizing Design-Build would result an elevated risk level of no competition with only one submitter. This work is necessary to assess the level of risk and evaluate a potential pivot in delivery method with urgency to maximize opportunity to maintain program construction schedule. This exemption will execute three separate Task Orders under Agreement Y-12913: •Task AC – SR 112 MP 0 to 17: Detour Route Planning Study – \$95,697 •Task AD – SR 112 MP 32: Jim Creek New Alignment Study – \$97,300 •Task AE – SR 112 MP 35 to 38: Sumas Pass New Alignment Study – \$99,851 This project is tied to a NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) grant, which WSDOT secured in collaboration with the Department of Ecology (ECY). The grant allocates \$25 million toward improving the resiliency of SR 112 through the design, permitting, and construction of high-priority projects along this critical route in the North Olympic Peninsula. SR 112 provides essential access to remote communities and is considered one of the most problematic travel corridors in the state.
5/16/2025	Landslide Technology	Geotechnical Support for SR 112 Neah & Clallam Bay Vicinity/NOAA GRANT	December 2027	292848	108	Given the current workload and the high number of emergency response needs, the State Geotechnical Office does not have the capacity to provide full-time, dedicated support to this effort. Without supplemental consultant support, there is the risk of delays that could jeopardize the grant’s schedule and deliverables.
5/16/2025	Shannon & Wilson	Geotechnical support to the Northwest Region Project Engineers Office (PEO) in completing geo; December 2026		22361	108	S&W has been supporting this project since the beginning of the design phase. They have completed the majority of their geotechnical design work; however, additional budget is needed for them to perform a revised analysis, finalize the draft report, and continue supporting the project through advertisement, currently targeted for September 2026.
				6,386,765.12		Replacing the geotechnical engineer at this stage would introduce unnecessary risk to the project and require additional time and resources to bring a new engineer up to speed.

Agency:
Program:
Agency Director signature:

Goods and Equipment Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Date Approved	Description of Goods or Equipment	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
	No Exceptions Reported This Period			

Travel Freeze Exception Report to OFM

Agency:
Program:
Agency Director signature:

Date Approved	Position Title	Total Cost	Fund Source	Rationale for Approving Exception
4/18/2025	UAS Coordinator	3250	039	Attendance to this event directly supports the Department's mission to identify opportunities and integrate solutions that contribute to the adoption of new technologies in support of safer, more reliable, and cost-effective options in the aviation transportation space. Attendance also supports the ongoing studies currently commissioned by the Aviation Division in alternative/sustainable aviation platforms and energy hubs at airport environments. This venue is a platform for collaboration with stakeholders dedicated to advancing program goals in community outreach, industry partnerships, and governmental agencies decision making that contribute to developments in aviation policy, material solutions, and program growth.
4/17/2025	Aviation Planner - Emerging aviation technologies	3450	039	This provides critical information for planning for Advanced, Regional, and Urban Air Mobility across the state. These new types of transportation are intended to be part of a larger multimodal system implemented across the state's urban, suburban, and rural areas and beyond. There will also be opportunities to discuss infrastructure requirements and operational procedures directly with manufacturers and designers. Demonstrators of vertiports as well as actual eVTOL aircraft will be on site for evaluation and observation. Flight demonstrations will allow for assessment of noise and other operational factors that are not possible without being on site.
4/14/2025	Director	3800	039	As Vice Chair, the Director is one of the people planning the conference and is recognized as a thought leader on General Aviation issues within the Association. AAAE is the largest association of airport professionals in the world. The Director's active role as an AAAE leader, positions WSDOT as a knowledge base on airport issues and allows WSDOT to have meaningful input on national airport policy development. The AAAE conference aligns with the WSDOT Strategic Plan goal area of Inclusion by meeting with other airport professionals and building and supporting a culture of transportation teams; and by strengthening partnerships with other airport management professional in sharing of efficient technologies and information.
5/8/2025	Transportation Planning Specialists 5	350	108	Employee recognition for 35 combined years of maintaining outstanding university research relationships with faculty and staff at WSU and UW. Request from both the U of W and WSU to hold event.
5/14/2025	Portage Bay Construction Director	2100	20H	AASHTO Management Institute (AMI) is a well established organization that provides various leadership training courses for AASHTO members (all the departments of Transportation in the US and other agencies). The Director was nominated and selected to this rare opportunity to attend the September training session. This is essential in further developing her leadership skills and will serve WSDOT well in having her to lead the successful delivery of the Portage Bay Bridge Design-Build Project.
		12,950.00		