

Joint Transportation Committee Studies 2007 Interim—July 2007 update

State Ferry System Review--Phase 2

This study is an extension of work done by the Joint Transportation Committee last interim. The JTC Work Group is to oversee implementation of ESHB 2358 and ferry system program reviews. Certain tasks are being done by a JTC consultant, the Transportation Commission, and/or the WSDOT. Issues to be addressed include ferry fares and pricing strategies, levels of service, capital plans for boats and terminals, and financing strategies. The work group is to issue a report in December, 2007; however, most work products are likely to be completed in 2008. \$500,000 is appropriated for this effort.

- *The Ferry Review Policy Group has been appointed. (six Members + Governor's office)*
- *JTC has retained Cedar River and Associates (Kathy Scanlan) to perform this work*
- *Staff group has bi-weekly meetings to coordinate tasks among WSF, Transportation Commission, and JTC*
- *Planning for Ferry Review Policy Group meeting in August*
- *Commission survey work plan for user survey is nearly complete*
- *Materials to be mailed to Policy Group next week*

Freight Investment Study

This consultant study, mandated in SSB 5207, is to evaluate existing fees paid by the freight industry and potential industry and other fees to finance freight congestion relief investments. This includes an evaluation of other states and countries' programs and their impact on competitiveness. The study is examining the structure of a project recommendation body. The study includes a stakeholder group composed of industry representatives, and is to be completed prior to the 2008 Session. \$500,000 was appropriated for this study; however, the JTC determined to limit study proposals to \$400,000.

- *The Freight Investment Study Policy Group has been appointed (ten Members + Governor's office + Transportation Commissioner)*
- *Stakeholder's Group appointed (25 + members)*
- *Consultant contract with Cambridge Systematics team signed July 18th*
- *Stakeholder Group members being surveyed for mid-August meeting*

(over)

Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation

This study is mandated in SHB 1694 and is to review legal and programmatic changes needed to effectively coordinate special needs transportation services at the regional level. This includes examining non-traditional service providers, facility siting decisions, and strategies for a decentralized broker system. One or more meetings with providers, brokers and the many agencies sponsoring trips for persons with special needs will be held and the JTC intends to retain a consultant to assist with the evaluation. This is an 18 month study, with a final draft report due in December, 2008. \$300,000 is appropriated for this effort.

- *Staff has met with certain ACCT and agency staff*
- *List of consultants has been developed*
- *Consultant identification process initiated in September*
- *One of more stakeholder meetings is required*
- *JTC appointed oversight group?*

Regional Transportation

Although the JTC is not specifically assigned a role in evaluating transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region, a budget note refers to potential activity in that regard. \$400,000 is provided to support activities centering around such activity.

- *No requests for funding activities*