

JTC 2008 Studies 2008 Update

May 13, 2008

Freight Investment Study

This 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. A JTC appointed Policy Group of legislators, and a representative of the Governor's Office and the Transportation Commission is overseeing the study. Originally scheduled to be completed for the 2008 Session, the study period was extended until the 2009 Session upon recommendation of the Stakeholder and Policy Groups. Appropriation \$500,000. JTC Project Manger: Gene Baxstrom

Update:

- Diversion analysis completed and write-up circulated for comment
- Consultant quantifying fee revenue forecasts
- Consultant team identifying and analyzing project costs/benefits nexus to freight
- Project evaluation coordinated with PSRC project analysis
- Proposed Policy Group meeting for June

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. Consultant based research and analysis guided by a Policy Group, consisting of Transportation Committee and Ways and Means and Appropriations Committee members. Consultant Neslon/Nygaard. Appropriation is \$300,000. JTC Project Manager: Gene Baxstrom.

Update:

- Special needs services statewide inventory nearly completed.
- Case studies of four counties underway.
- Analysis of barriers to service coordinated underway.
- Numerous interviews conducted.
- Forums held in Yakima and Everett on May 5th and 7th.
- Policy Group meeting May 13th.
- Draft study due October 1st.

State Ferry System Review - Phase 2

This study is an extension of work done by the Joint Transportation Committee over the last two interims. The JTC Work Group will continue overseeing the implementation of ESHB 2358 and ferry system program reviews mandated in the 2007 budget. This interim will see the delivery of a number of analyses that will mesh together to form the basis for a new ferry long range plan for consideration by the 2009 Legislature. Total appropriations \$750,000. JTC Project Manager is Paul Neal

Update:

- “Systemwide Costs Report” was finalized May 18th.
- “Operating Management and Support Costs Draft Report” undergoing staff review. Draft available June 30th for Policy Group review on July 8th.
- The Transportation Commission Ferry Customer Survey: Report from first round of Surveys will be reported at the May 23rd Ferry Policy Group Meeting.
- WSDOT Ferries Analyses – Analyses directed by ESHB 2358 that inform the long range plan:
 - Pricing Strategies – To be presented at May 23rd Ferry Policy Group Meeting;
 - Operational Strategies – To be presented at May 23rd Ferry Policy Group Meeting;
- Policy Group Meetings
 - May 23rd - Edmonds
 - July 8th
 - Sept., Nov., & Dec.

Transportation Resource Manual

JTC staff will take the lead on update of the manual. JTC Project Manager is Paul Neal.

Update:

- Preliminary work on the update will begin in June.

Multimodal Concurrency Analysis - Pilot Program

In partnership with the Puget Sound Regional Council and City of Bellevue, this project will: “....analyze total trip needs for a regional growth center based on adopted land use plans, identify the number of trips which can be accommodated by planned roadway , transit service, and nonmotorized investments, and identify gaps for trips that cannot be served and strategies to fill those gaps. The purpose of the pilot is to demonstrate how this type of multimodal concurrency analysis can be used to broaden and strengthen local concurrency programs.” \$150,000 appropriated. JTC Project Manager: David Forte.

Update:

- Agency staffs are currently developing the work program and schedule.
- JTC will develop an interagency agreement based on the work program by June.
- The tentative schedule for the project runs through summer 2009.

Independent Technical Review I-90 Bridge

The JTC is overseeing "...an independent technical review...of light rail impacts on the Interstate 90 – Homer Hadley Floating Bridge. The technical review shall complement sound transit's current and planned engineering design work to expand light rail in the central Puget Sound region..." Up to \$550,000 is appropriated within WSDOT's budget. JTC Project Manager is David Forte.

Update:

- The Independent Review Team (IRT) began work in April. The IRT has established a good and appropriate relationship with WSDOT and Sound Transit, with both agencies providing information and assistance to the team.
- Both WSDOT and Sound Transit advanced scheduled analysis and engineering studies to support the IRT schedule.
- Research and analysis work through May and June.
- The IRT will provide a work-to-date briefing to members on May 22nd.
- The IRT will provide a preliminary findings briefing to members on June 18th.
- The preliminary findings will be presented to the July 8th JTC meeting and the final findings at the September 12th JTC meeting.

Financial Assumptions & Cash Management Study – Transportation Budget & 16-Year Finance Plan

The JTC approved this project to "...research, analyze, and make recommendations on a shared set of bond finance assumptions and methodologies for use in the development of the 16-year transportation financial plan." The project is being conducted in coordination with staff from the Senate and House Transportation Committees, Office of State Treasurer, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Office of Financial Management. Appropriation, not to exceed \$50,000. JTC Project Manager David Forte.

Update:

- The multi-agency staff working group has been established.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) from consultants was issued on May 6th.
- Consultant proposals are due May 23rd.
- Anticipated consultant start date is week of June 16th.
- Preliminary findings and recommendations due August 1st.