

Follow-Up on WSDOT's Long-Term Estimates of Bridge Preservation Needs

Legislative Auditor's Conclusion: WSDOT has taken steps to improve its long-term estimates of bridge preservation needs, but will need to continue its work to provide complete and reliable estimates.

WASHINGTON



Preservation

- Reduce, delay, or prevent deterioration
- Extend service life

Long-range planning required under state and federal law.

3,932 bridges and structures

\$259 million for bridge preservation (2019-2021)

Follow-up on 2015 JLARC report

"WSDOT can provide reliable long-term pavement estimates, but accuracy of bridge estimates is uncertain."

2015 Legislative Auditor Recommendations:

- 1. WSDOT should improve long-term estimates of bridge preservation needs.
- 2. WSDOT and OFM should develop a process to improve stakeholders' confidence in its estimates.



WSDOT has acquired a bridge management system

Capabilities

- Forecast deterioration
- Analyze life cycle costs
- Determine budget needs
- Evaluate funding scenarios

Implementation is not complete.



2015

WSDOT issues plan to improve estimates

2018

WSDOT begins implementation of bridge management system

2017

Federal regulations require improvements

July 2020

WSDOT system fully operational (expected)

Progress is similar to other state departments of transportation.





WSDOT should report to the Legislature on its progress with implementing its bridge management system.

WSDOT concurs



WSDOT can improve communications

OFM has not yet completed steps to help improve stakeholder confidence in bridge estimates.

Reported needs: \$2.7 billion

Incomplete

Does not include:

- Border bridges
- Moveable bridge components
- Seismic retrofits

Out of date

- Created in 2016
- Costs have increased by hundreds of millions



WSDOT and OFM should develop and implement a plan to communicate long-term preservation needs accurately, reliably, and transparently.

WSDOT and OFM concur



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Full Report: www.leg.wa.gov/jlarc