



Fort Lewis (Nisqually) Weigh Station

Several thousand trucks pass by the Fort Lewis/Nisqually weigh station every day which equates to more than 1.7 million trucks per year. The station uses electronic screening called Weigh in Motion (WIM) and advanced technology to screen for inspections.

However, the design of the station does not allow the technology to perform at its optimum level. The Automated Infrared Roadside Scanning (AIRS) system that checks brake functionality is not performing to its full capacity due to station configuration. The fiber optic system is not adequate for the station technology needs. The length of the ramp leading to the site is too short for the volume of trucks on the roadway. In addition, the station is staffed by a single officer, which is not adequate to handle the volume of traffic at the facility. Also, the site is in need of additional parking spaces.



The WSP is currently looking for options to upgrade the station. There are two current options; upgrade the current site or relocate the site to the north with a joint partnership with Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). Relocation to JBLM would address a critical military need of screening commercial vehicles entering the base. Each week, between 750-1100 trucks enter JBLM which do not receive optimum screening.

The Fort Lewis station is impacted by the WSDOT Interstate 5 improvement project at JBLM. The construction of the project has begun in 2017, and will last until 2023. WSDOT did not include the WSP in its 2013 initial stakeholder meetings. After the WSP learned of the roadway project, WSDOT subsequently added the WSP to the improvement project planning in September of 2015.

The Fort Lewis station is impacted by the WSDOT Interstate 5 improvement project at JBLM. The construction of the project has begun in 2017, and will last until 2023. The 2016 JTC Study – Efficiency and Effectiveness of Weigh Station Management in Washington State pointed out gaps in communications within and between our two agencies. Since then, both agencies have actively worked to improve coordination and collaboration relative to inspection facilities. WSP has been an active participant in I-5/JBLM project planning since September 15th, 2015, and WSDOT has revised its project design procedures to now require direct coordination on highway projects within the vicinity of any inspection facility.