

JTC WSDOT-LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS WORKGROUP

Presentation to the JTC

- Tracy Burrows, MRSC
- Steve Gorcester, Performance Plane LLC
- Jay Drye, WSDOT
- Drew Woods, CRAB

January 4, 2024

Hearing Room 1, Cherberg Building, Olympia

Aurora (SR-99) corridor in Shoreline. Image courtesy of City of Shoreline.



OUR TEAM

Consulting Team



Tracy Burrows
Project Manager



Steve Gorcester



Allegra Calder



Brian Murphy



Julia Tesch



JTC Staff

Dave Catterson, Project Manager



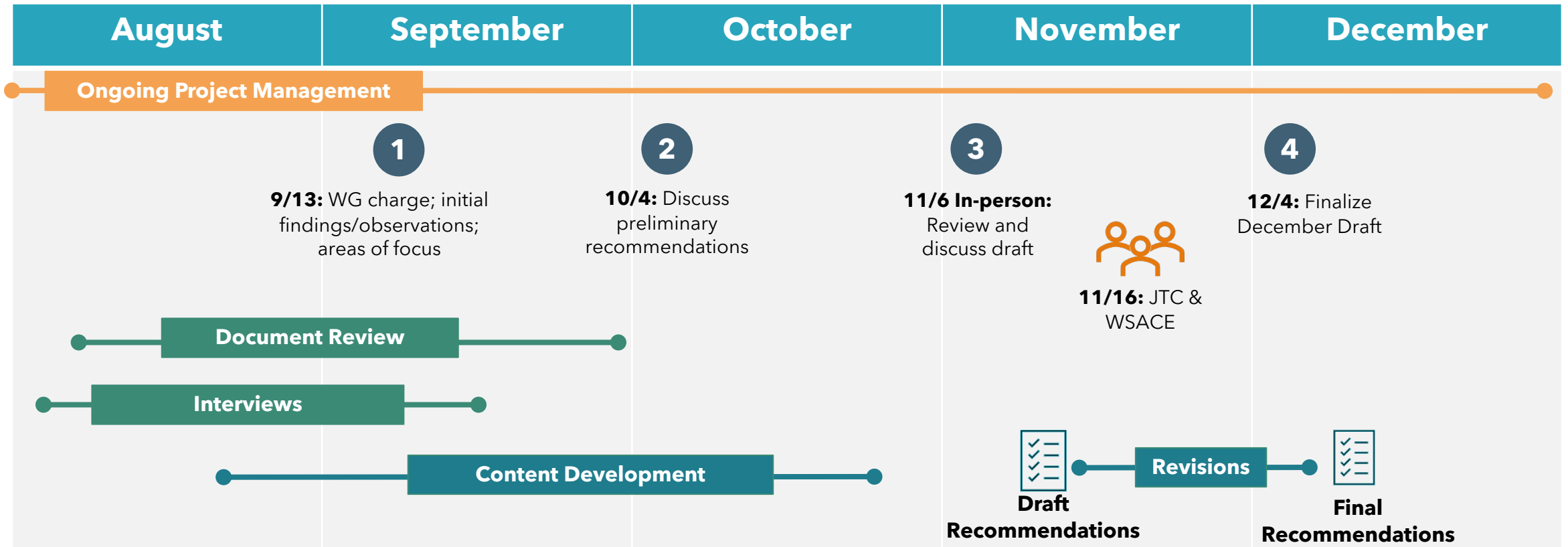
PROJECT CHARGE

Proviso: \$300,000 of the motor vehicle account–state appropriation is for the joint transportation committee, from amounts set aside out of statewide fuel taxes distributed to cities according to RCW 46.68.110(2), to contract with the municipal research and services center to convene a department of transportation-local government partnership work group to **create a procedure in which the department of transportation can partner with a local jurisdiction to perform preservation and maintenance and construct projects on state highways.**

WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP

Representative(s)	Workgroup Membership (Proviso)
Sen. Curtis King Sen. Liz Lovelett Rep. Andrew Barkis Rep. Davina Duerr	House and Senate Transportation Committees
Roscoe Slade, City of West Richland	City with a population between 5,000 and 50,000
Katherine Miller, City of Spokane	City with a population of more than 50,000
Matt Unzelman, Thurston County	County with a population between 100,000 and 400,000
Matt Zarecor, Spokane County	County with a population of more than 400,000
Richard DeRock, Port of Chelan	Public Port
Drew Woods, Deputy Director	County Road Administration Board
Ashley Probart, Executive Director	Transportation Improvement Board
Jay Drye, Director of Local Programs Guy Bowman, AAG Jon Deffenbacher, Deputy State Construction Engineer Mike Fleming, Deputy State Design Engineer JoAnn Schueler, Assistant Region Administrator for Project Development (Olympic)	WSDOT

PROJECT SCHEDULE THROUGH DECEMBER 2023





PROJECT NEED AND CONTEXT

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Findings from preliminary engagement

- Long history of locally delivered projects on state highways. Recent experience shows:
 - Lack of agreement that this is a promising practice
 - No consistent framework: project roles and responsibilities, design standards, review timeframes, liability, etc.
 - Both WSDOT and locals have had frustrations with the process
- There are a limited number of local jurisdictions with the capacity, expertise, or desire to take on state highway projects.

APPARENT CONSENSUS POINTS FROM PRELIMINARY ENGAGEMENT

Labor Shortage: A significant issue for both WSDOT and locals

Local Option: Cities and counties should not be compelled to take on state projects

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT LOCALLY DELIVERED PROJECTS

Project Name	Lead Local Jurisdiction	Impetus for Local Role	Funding Lead	Written Agreement?	Cost Escalation Provisions?	Design Lead	Construction Mgmt Lead	Project Status
I-5/54th Ave E Interchange	Fife	Not a priority, defaulted to city	City	May exist	Not addressed	City, consultant	Fife, WSDOT Inspection	Design
I-5/Port of Tacoma Rd Interchange	Fife	Not a priority, defaulted to city	City	May exist	City to close gap	City, consultant	Fife, WSDOT Inspection	Construct Phase 2a 2024, 2b 2025
SR507/Bald Hill Roundabout	Yelm	Funding appropriated to city by Legislature	Leg	Future expected	Legislature	City	City	Project initiation
SR507/Vail Road Roundabout	Thurston Co.	Funding appropriated to County by Legislature	Leg	Future expected	Legislature	County	County	Project initiation
SR507/SR702 Roundabout	Pierce Co.	Funding appropriated to County by Legislature	Leg	Drafting	Legislature	County	County	Project initiation
SR523 N. 145th Street	Shoreline	Not a priority, defaulted to city	City	Funding and future maint.	Seek funding from partners	City, consultant	City, consultant (orig. WSDOT)	Construction Fall 2023
SR 97 Perfect Passage	Tonasket	Not a priority, city needed to manage liability	City	None	City to pursue additional funding	City, consultant	City, consultant	98% Design, bid Nov 2023
SR224 Red Mountain Vic.	W Richland	Party consensus	Leg	Yes	Legislature	City	City	60% Design

WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER A PARTNERSHIP WITH WSDOT

Question: Would your jurisdiction consider partnering with WSDOT to deliver a project on a state highway?

NO: 57%

Why?



Lack of adequate staff expertise and/or capacity: 100%

- 30% of all respondents have no staff dedicated to the delivery or management of capital transportation projects
- Of those local governments with transportation engineering staff:
 - 63% reported having staff vacancies in these positions
 - 37% reported having difficulty recruiting for these positions

YES: 13%
MAYBE: 30%

Most important factors in decision?



Adequate level of secured funding: 77%

Project aligned with local priorities: 24%

Project timing & schedule: 20%

Local autonomy & streamlined WSDOT review: 17%

RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

Locally Delivered Projects

- Mutually agreed to by WSDOT and Local Partner
- Consistent process for project selection and delivery

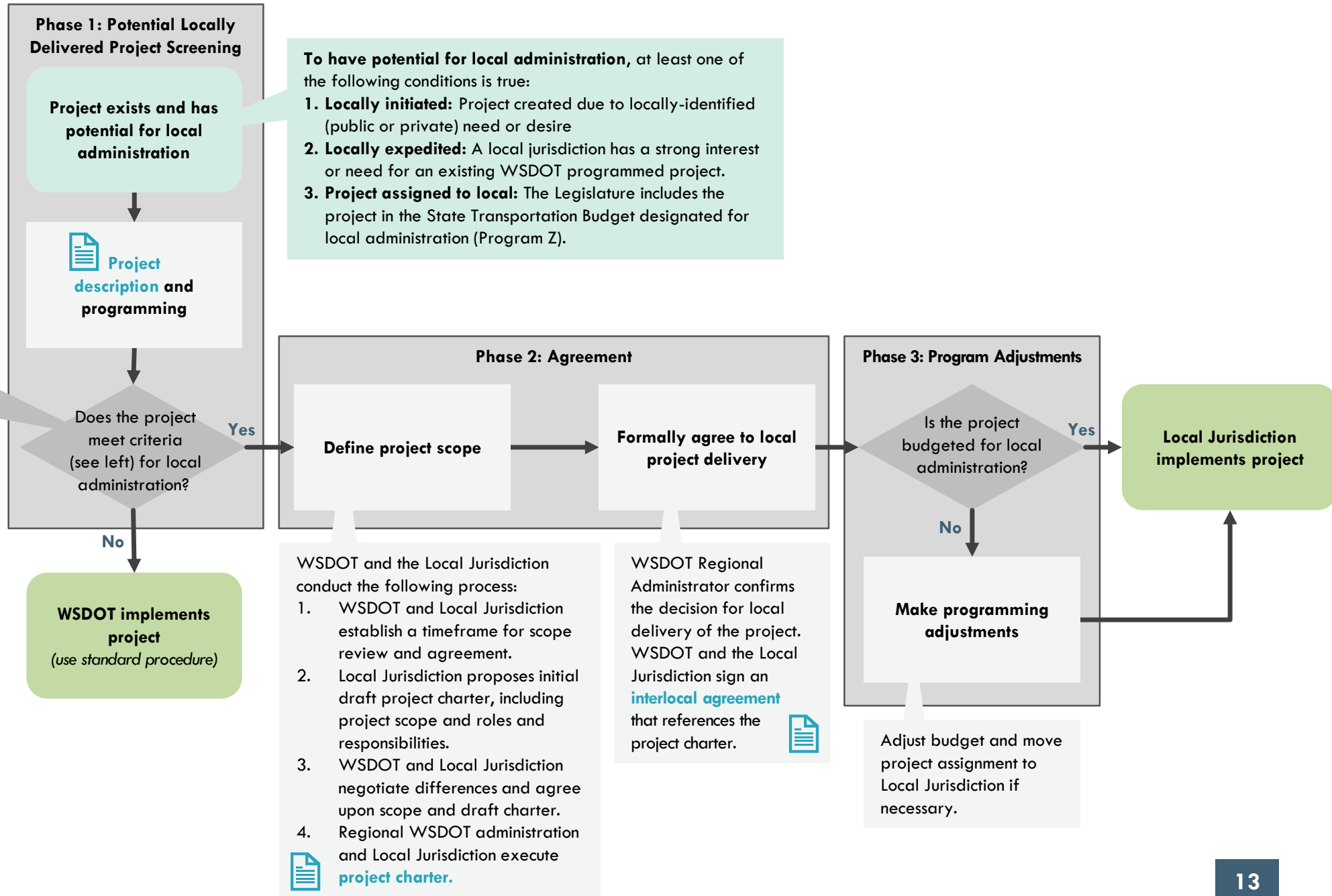
Maintenance and preservation

- City maintenance responsibilities are established in existing statute, no recommended expansion of responsibility
- Individual counties may have an interest in partnering with WSDOT to deliver maintenance services on a reimbursement basis

PROJECT SELECTION AND DELIVERY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Identify projects using common screening criteria:** mutual agreement; sound funding plan; local capacity to deliver; WSDOT capacity to provide oversight
- **Assign a single point of contact for each agency to facilitate project delivery**
- **Establish mutual agreements on project scope and roles & responsibilities**
 - **Project Scope**
 - **Level and timing of WSDOT Oversight**
 - **Cost Escalation Strategies and Responsibilities**
 - **Liability**
 - **Long-Term Maintenance**
 - **Other Project Specific Provisions**
- **Document these agreements in a project charter and signed interlocal agreement**

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS



WSDOT INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- **Assign a lead WSDOT staff member** for implementation of study recommendations
- **Develop templates** for project charters and interlocal agreements
- **Establish a separate budget** for WSDOT review and oversight of Locally Delivered Projects
- **Implement relevant improvements to the channelization plan review process**
- **Develop and disseminate guidelines for local governments** that are considering a partnership with WSDOT to deliver a project on the state highway system