

# 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





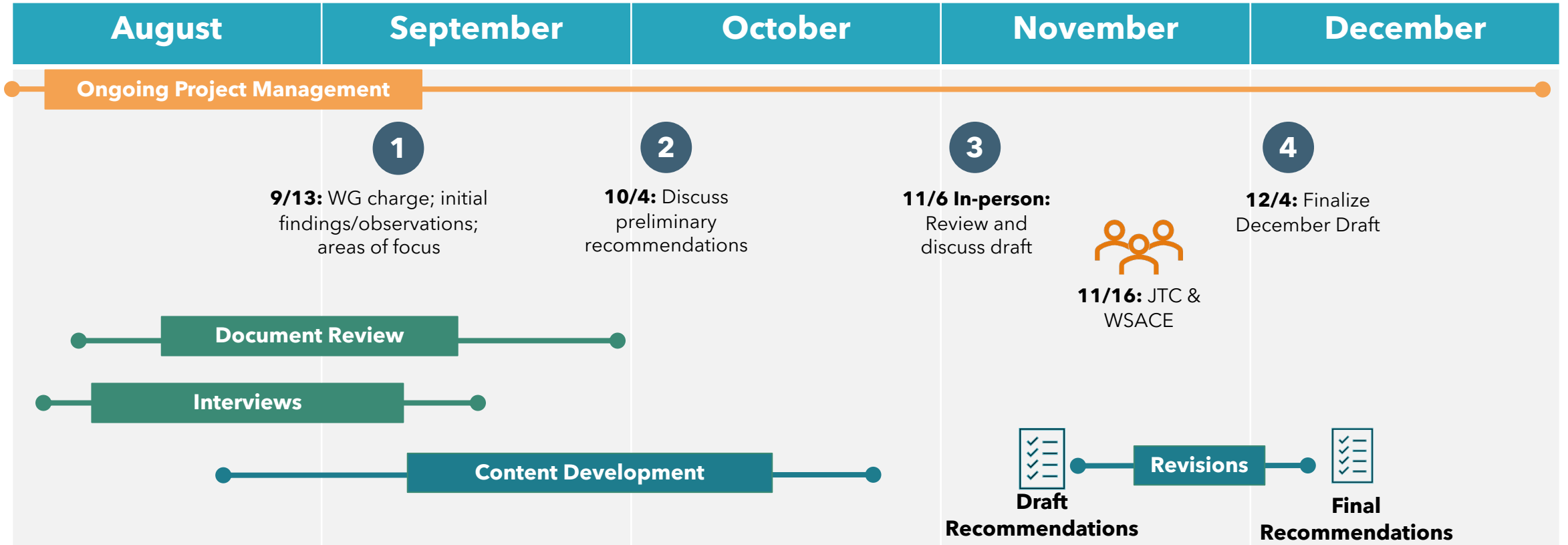
# PROJECT CHARGE

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
<b>I-5/54th Ave E Interchange</b>	Fife	Not a priority, defaulted to city	City	May exist	Not addressed	City, consultant	Fife, WSDOT Inspection	Design
<b>I-5/Port of Tacoma Rd Interchange</b>	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
<b>SR507/Bald Hill Roundabout</b>	Yelm	Funding appropriated to city by Legislature	Leg	Future expected	Legislature	City	City	Project initiation
<b>SR507/Vail Road Roundabout</b>	Thurston Co.	Funding appropriated to County by Legislature	Leg	Future expected	Legislature	County	County	Project initiation
<b>SR507/SR702 Roundabout</b>	Pierce Co.	Funding appropriated to County by Legislature	Leg	Drafting	Legislature	County	County	Project initiation
<b>SR523 N. 145th Street</b>	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
<b>SR 97 Perfect Passage</b>	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
<b>SR224 Red Mountain Vic.</b>	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%**

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# RECOMMENDATIONS

# OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

## Locally Delivered Projects

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

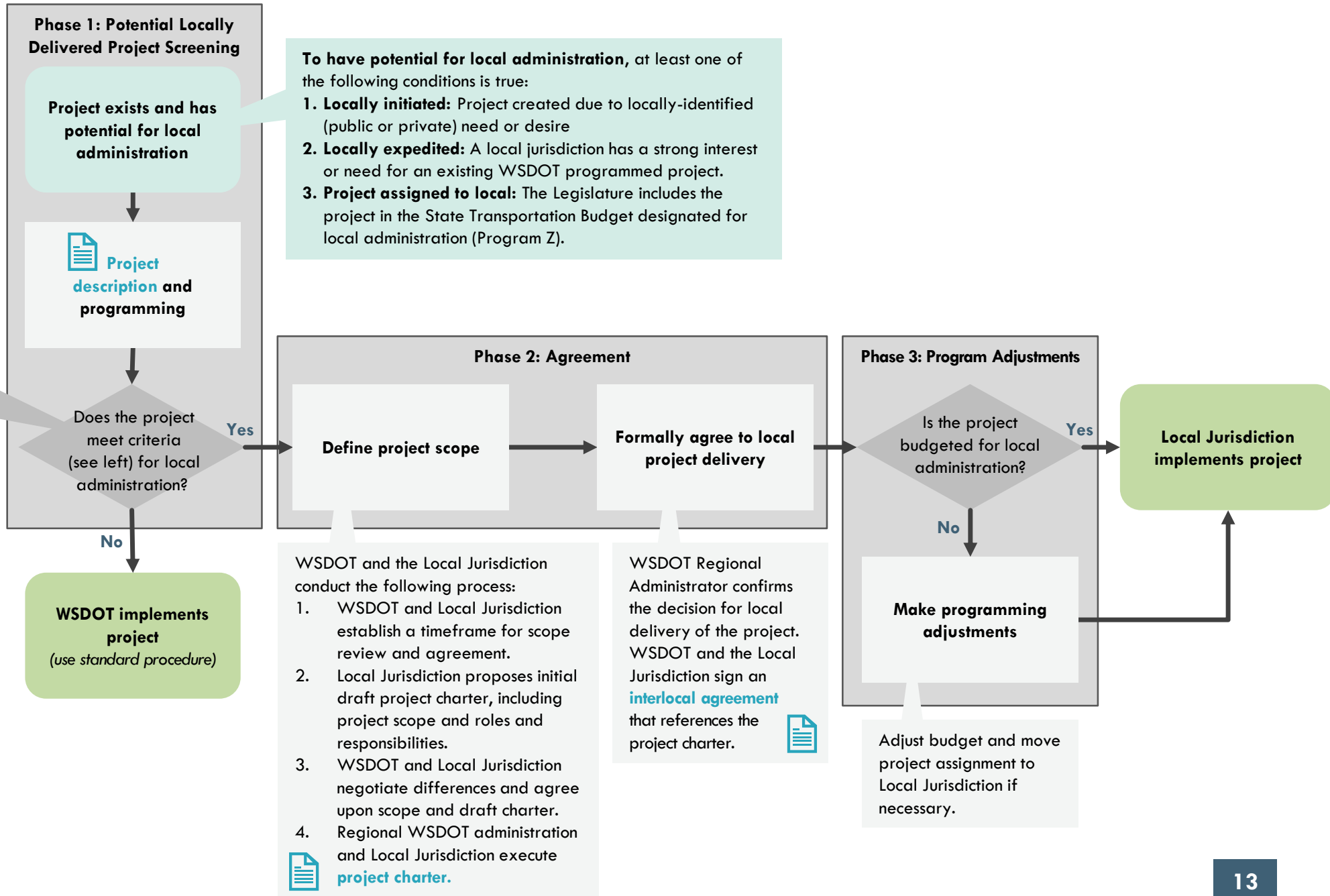
## Maintenance and preservation

- 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