

January 18, 2021

Last week I shared with WSDOT staff and our partners direction received by the Office of Financial Management to delay certain projects scheduled to be advertised between January 11 and April 30, 2021 for bids until the Governor and Legislature agree on a plan for the 2021-23 transportation budget.

Delaying going to bid for these projects gives the Governor and the Legislature more financial flexibility to determine how to address our significant transportation budget challenges during session. From a state budget perspective, this short-term action prevents WSDOT from obligating funds that ultimately makes transportation budget challenges harder to solve during legislative session.

Projects may be released for advertisement before April 30 if OFM and legislative leadership finalize a budget plan or determine risk associated with a project delay is too great. Also, projects scheduled for advertisement after April 30, 2021 may be delayed, giving further flexibility in budget discussions. This list was pulled together by WSDOT staff in close coordination with OFM and the Governor's Office and:

- **Applies to capital expansion construction projects** only.
- **Does not** include fish passage, preservation or safety projects. WSDOT will continue to move forward on these specific types of projects as the deadline for the federal court injunction related to fish passage is imminent and preservation and safety work are critical to the safe operation of our multimodal transportation system.
- **Does not** affect contracts already under way.
- **Continues** projects in the **design** phase.
- While this action pauses the advertisement of contracts for bid, it **does not stop other activity** on those projects including planning, environmental, design, and right-of-way work needed to advance the projects to eventual construction.
- Focuses on projects **funded mostly with state dollars** and **mostly retains WSDOT's schedule for projects spending primarily federal dollars**. For WSDOT projects funded by federal dollars, it is important to note that federal fund sources have not decreased, those fund sources and their use are often provided for a specific purpose and cannot be redirected, and if paused, those fund sources could lapse.

I also want to be clear that these actions are in no way related to Initiative 976 and last year's delay to construction projects not yet underway. Those projects re-started once the Governor and Legislature agreed on a budget during the 2020 legislative session.

I will continue to keep you updated as conversations around our budget evolve.

Sincerely,

Roger Millar, P.E., FASCE, FAICP
Secretary of Transportation

Upcoming Advertisements that Meet the OFM Criteria for Pausing
Projects Below are Not Fish, Preservation, Safety, nor Under Contract

Ad Date	Type	Cost Range	Region	SR	Title and Work Description	County	WI Number	ContractingMethod
1/19/2021	Major Construction	5 - 10M	Northwest	9	SR 9/SR 204 Intersection - Improvements (Stage 2) - Construct an additional northbound lane on SR 9 & other improvements	Snohomish	A00910M	DESIGN BID BUILD
1/19/2021	Major Construction	2 - 3M	Northwest	9	SR 9/South Lake Stevens Road - Intersection Improvements	Snohomish	A00913J	DESIGN BID BUILD
1/25/2021	Bridge	20 - 25M	AWV	0	SR 99/Tunnel Alternative, South Access Surface Street Connections - South Access	King	U09904D	DESIGN BID BUILD
1/29/2021 RFP	Major Construction	45 - 50M	Northwest	405	I-405/NE 132nd Street Interchange Improvements - Construct Half-Diamond I/C and Seismic Retrofit Br 405/059E & 405/059W	King	A40567B	DESIGN BUILD
2/8/2021	Major Construction	5 - 10M	Southwest	501	SR 501/I-5 to Port of Vancouver - Intersection Improvements & ADA - Construct roadway improvements for economic development	Clark	D50120A	DESIGN BID BUILD
2/16/2021	Major Construction	25 - 30M	Northwest	520	SR 520/148th Ave NE Interchange - Overlake Access Ramp - Widen Off-ramp and Add New Structure	King	A52032K	DESIGN BID BUILD
2/22/2021	Major Construction	60 - 70M	520	520	SR 520/I-5 Interchange - Improvement - New Reversible HOV Ramp connection with I-5	King	U52005E	DESIGN BID BUILD
3/9/2021 RFP	Major Construction	Over 300M	Gateway	167 PR	SR 167/I-5 to SR 509 - Corridor Construction - Construct new alignment	Pierce	C16707T	DESIGN BUILD
4/5/2021 RFP	Major Construction	60 - 70M	Northwest	5	I-5/NB Marine View Dr to SR 529 - Corridor & Interchange Improvements - NB Corridor & SR 529 Interchange Improvements	Snohomish	A00549B	DESIGN BUILD