

Status Report: Review of Best Practices for Public/Private Partnerships in Washington

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Washington State
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2010 Legislative Proviso:

“The Commission shall work with Department of Transportation’s economic partnerships (Program K) in conducting a best practices review of non-toll, public/private partnerships.

The purpose of this review is to identify policies and procedures that would be appropriate for application in Washington state. The Commission must report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation if warranted, to the House and Senate Transportation Committees by January, 2011.”

Summary of Approach

1. Analyze WSDOT's existing program, laws and rules.
2. Review PPP programs and projects at other public agencies in Washington.
3. Interview private sector developers and professional service firms.
4. Compare/contrast Best Practices against WSDOT's current program, laws and rules.
5. Develop, test and recommend a revised PPP project approval structure for use by WSDOT and the Transportation Commission.

Public Sector Interviews

- Kitsap Transit
- Sound Transit
- City of Vancouver, WA
- City of Olympia
- King County

Main Focus Areas:

- Organizational structure/responsibilities for PPP's
- Legal provisions governing PPP's
- Soliciting proposals
- Oversight and approval process
- Project-related funding
- Internal alignment and process

Some Initial Themes

1. Be clear about the project goals before you start.
2. Active involvement of other public agencies is the Best Practice, but different models for achieving this.
3. Organizational responsibility for developing PPP's tends to fall to Economic Development officials.
4. All organizations utilize outside experts to a much greater degree than WSDOT.
5. Approval authorities (Boards, Councils, etc.) were kept abreast of status, but not deeply involved in project development and negotiations.

Next Steps

1. Interview private sector firms (developers and professional services firms).
2. Draft initial report findings for Commission review and comments (by late November).
3. Develop draft recommendations, including potential legislative or rule changes (by early December).
4. Conduct table-top exercise based on revised process.
5. Final draft report, recommendations and suggested legislative or rule changes to Legislature in January.

Questions?

For more information on Best Practices for Public/Private Partnerships in Washington, please contact:

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