

TO: Governor Christine Gregoire
House Transportation Committee
Senate Transportation Committee
Joint Legislative Transportation Committee

From: Doug Hurley, Chair

Date: April 3, 2006

Subject: Final Report – Transportation Working Group
Washington State Department of Transportation Capital Project Delivery
Reporting

As with our Goals and Benchmarks report, this is a report about reforming reform.

When assigned to develop capital performance measures for the Transportation Partnership Account projects, TPAB was already working on performance measures for the Nickel package and ongoing capital programs. What had become apparent was that in the zeal for accountability, different groups were asking for different data in different formats. This was a problem TPAB had pointed out to the Legislature as a generic problem which also applied to the issue of capital measures.

TPAB and the Joint Legislative Audit Board (JLARC) therefore convened a Transportation Working Group (TWG) to develop coherent instructions and requests from the entities charged with oversight of the DOT capital project. The TWG included staff from TPAB, the Office of Financial Management, the Governor's Office, the Senate Transportation Committee, the House Transportation Committee, JLARC and DOT.

What emerged was agreement on budget reporting milestones, schedule reporting milestones, reporting frequencies and agreement on which budget areas would be reported on by project and which by program categories. From the outset the TWG acknowledged a need to develop both a short and a long-term vision for DOT project reporting – with the short term vision constrained by DOT computer and management systems. DOT has provided sample reports that reflect the constraints of its existing systems.

Outstanding performance issues include reaching agreement on protocols for reporting on Washington State Ferries and other non-highway DOT capital projects, reporting on scope compliance as required by ESSB 6091 and ESHB 2474 and developing earned value and estimate at completion reporting.

TPAB was pleased to play a role in convening the TWG and documenting their work. We encourage you to use this system for a few years before fixing it again. And we emphasize that the strength of this reporting will be enhanced by stronger IT systems at DOT.