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December 15, 2021

The Honorable Marko Liias  
 Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
 P.O. Box 40421  
 Olympia WA 98504-0421

The Honorable Jake Fey  
 Chair, House Transportation Committee  
 P.O. Box 40600  
 Olympia WA 98504-0600

David Schumacher  
 Director, Office of Financial Management  
 P.O. Box 43113  
 Olympia, WA 98504-3113

RE: Implementing Practical Design Connecting Washington Project Title and Scope Change Request

Dear Director Schumacher, Senator Liias and Representative Fey,

The Washington State Department of Transportation requests legislative approval for scope changes for a projects consistent with the process outlined in RCW 47.01.480(1)(a). The statute states practical design-related changes to the scope of a Connecting Washington project may be proposed by the department for legislative approval, " ... if the projects intended performance is substantially unchanged and the local governments and interested stakeholders impacted by the project have been consulted and have reviewed the proposed changes." Consistent with the process established by the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature, the Washington State Department of Transportation is submitting the required documentation (see attachment) for review and legislative approval of the proposed changes.

Project List ID	LEAP Document 2021-1 Title	Proposed Project Title
L2000223	I-5 Rebuild Chamber Way Interchange Improvements	I-5 /Chamber Way Interchange Vicinity Improvements.

Project List ID	LEAP Document 2021-1 Project Description	Proposed Project Description
L2000223	Rebuilds Chamber Way Interchange (\$40M) and builds auxiliary lanes between Chamber Way and Mellen Street (\$35M).	Remove and replace the damaged Chamber Way Bridge structure over I-5. Improve mobility and safety in the I-5 corridor in the vicinity of Chamber Way by installing ramp meters at the I-5 onramps between SR 6 and Harrison Avenue, construct intersection improvements at the Chamber Way and SR 6 interchanges including improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and widening I-5 southbound from Chamber Way to SR 6 which includes replacing the West Street undercrossing and addressing a fish passage barrier on I-5 within the project limits.

Please contact Jay Alexander at (360) 705-7121 or [alexanja@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:alexanja@wsdot.wa.gov) if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

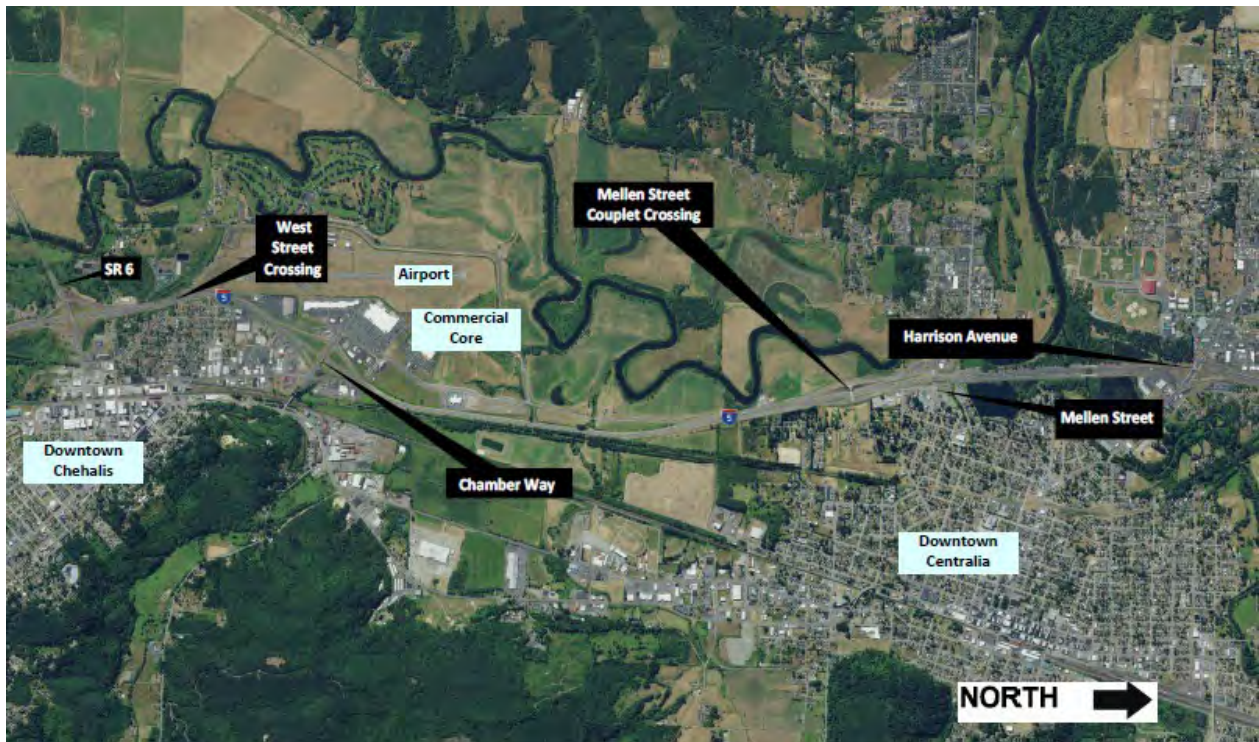
Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Kelly Simpson, STC  
Mark Matteson,  
HTC Erik Hansen, OFM

Type of Change:      ✓ Title                              ✓ Scope

**LEAP Transportation Document 2021 Passed April 4, 2021**

**Project Title:** I-5 Rebuild Chamber Way Interchange Improvements (L2000223)  
**Project Description:** Rebuilds Chamber Way Interchange (\$40M) and builds auxiliary lanes between Chamber Way and Mellen Street (\$35M).  
**Program:** Improvement                              **County:** Lewis  
**WSDOT Region:** Southwest                              **Leg. District:** 20



**Proposed Project Title:**  
I-5 /Chamber Way Interchange Vicinity Improvements.

**Proposed Project Description:**  
Remove and replace the damaged Chamber Way Bridge structure over I-5. Improve mobility and safety in the I-5 corridor in the vicinity of the Chamber Way by installing ramp meters at the I-5 onramps between SR 6 and Harrison Avenue, construct intersection improvements at the Chamber Way and SR 6 interchanges including improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and widening I-5 southbound from Chamber Way to SR 6 which includes replacing the West Street undercrossing and addressing a fish passage barrier on I-5 within the project limits.

**Justification of Need:**

**1. What is the requested change to this project description?**

The requested project description revises the scope to include rebuilding the Chamber Way bridge over I-5, ramp meters in the corridor, intersection improvements at the Chamber Way and SR 6 interchange areas, widening southbound only between SR 6 and Chamber Way, and the inclusion of a fish passage barrier that was identified in the project area near SR 6.

Work to remove and replace the damaged Chamber Way Bridge structure over I-5 began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. It is anticipated the remaining work would be constructed in stages.

**Why is this change requested and does it impact the intended performance of the legislative scope? Describe the change.**

The scope of work was developed during pre-design analysis and through extensive stakeholder and community outreach. Existing conditions and operational issues were identified, future projections developed, and a set of potential solutions identified to address the most pressing needs. This change meets the legislative intent because the project would improve mobility and safety by making improvements at the Chamber Way interchange and widening I-5 southbound from Chamber Way to SR 6 (which requires addressing fish passage barrier ID# 994300). As part of the outreach, it was identified that ramp metering in the corridor and improvements at the SR 6 interchange will better achieve the intended mobility improvements in the community while also improving safety.

Staging of the overall project will depend somewhat on environmental permitting and right of way acquisition timelines, however the anticipated delivery sequence is as follows: Stage one would construct ramp meters in the corridor and would be advertised for construction in 2023. Stage two would start construction in 2025 and include the ramp terminal and frontage road intersection improvements at the Chamber Way and SR 6 Interchanges. The final stage, advertised in 2026, constructs the southbound auxiliary lane between SR 6 and Chamber Way, replaces the West Street bridge over I-5, and addresses the fish passage barrier in the vicinity of SR 6.

A revised expenditure aging plan is provided below. This reflects the anticipated timelines required to complete public engagement, develop enough design to establish project footprints, complete environmental documentation and permitting, determine right of way needs and acquire real estate as needed for each phase.

Chamber Way Revised Aging (dollars in thousands)						
	19-21 and Prior	21-23	23-35	25-27	27-29	Total
L2000223 Last approved (21LegCOR)	20,436	9,250	49,000	20,000		98,686
Revised aging	18,376	5,600	15,250	44,220	15,240	98,686

**2. Have the impacted local governments and stakeholders been consulted and reviewed the proposed change? What are the reactions to the requested change?**

Yes. The City of Chehalis, City of Centralia, Lewis County, and others are aware and support the proposed change of scope to include improvements at both the Chamber Way and SR 6 interchanges as well as installing ramp meters on I-5 and widening of I-5 southbound. A Technical Working Group and Agency Outreach Group (AOG) were formed involving the key stakeholders to develop the Purpose and Need, as well as contribute expertise through the Alternative Analysis process, which refined the scope. WSDOT has reached out to Senator Braun and Representative Orcutt and both have received the AOG information.