

Implementing the \$16 billion Connecting Washington investment package

Continues delivery of 132 projects that improve the predictable movement of people and goods throughout the state, as authorized by the Legislature in the Connecting Washington package. Also provides a 10-year delivery schedule for 21 new transit and 23 new bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Fish passage barrier removal

\$88.7 million 2015–17; \$640.4 million over 16 years

Adds funding and accelerates delivery of projects to meet court-ordered removal of fish passage barriers to improve access to fish habitat. This represents a \$113 million increase over current 16-year funding levels and provides an average biennial spending level of \$80 million during that time. This funding level will fix 50 to 75 percent of fish passage barriers and open 580 to 870 miles of fish habitat.

Growing demand for enhanced driver's licenses

\$13.3 million 2015–17

Expands capacity at Department of Licensing offices to process enhanced driver's licenses and enhanced identicards. Recent federal requirements have caused an increase in demand and wait times for these documents. Funding will be used to hire up to 45 new licensing service representatives to help process transactions quickly and preserve shorter wait times.

Ferry vessel maintenance

\$6.1 million 2015–17

Uses available federal funding for parts, materials and contract support costs for nonroutine maintenance on ferry vessels to reduce out-of-service time. State funding will add two electricians at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility for routine and emergency electrical work on vessels and terminals.

Electric vehicle infrastructure bank

\$5.0 million over 16 years

Provides funding for installing publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations in Washington.

Electric vehicle tax incentives

\$3.5 million 2015–17; \$12.3 million over three years

Expands the sales and use tax exemption for electric vehicles to include the first \$35,000 of the sale price. Currently, the exemption applies only if the cost of the car is \$35,000 or less.

Traffic incident response

\$1.4 million 2015–17

Purchases 10 more traffic incident response vehicles to reduce traffic delays caused by collisions or other incidents on high-volume state routes and freeways. Funding includes operations and maintenance of the vehicles. Four to 10 minutes of traffic congestion (depending on traffic volumes) can result from every minute a lane remains blocked.

Standby ferry vessel

\$809,000 2015–17

Maintains the 87-car MV Klahowya as the standby vessel to minimize service disruption and capacity reductions when a ferry breaks down or is taken out of service for planned maintenance. The current standby MV Hiyu carries just 34 cars and is undersized as a viable backup boat. The Hiyu will be retired and decommissioned.

State trooper recruitment and retention

\$465,000 2015–17

Assists recruitment and retention efforts for Washington State Patrol troopers. These positions are essential for public safety, traffic law enforcement, collision investigation and motorist assistance on state highways. Funding will allow the WSP to continue outreach and marketing efforts to recruit new troopers and retain those now on the job.