



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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October 1, 2026

The Honorable Sean McMaster
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Annual State Survey (Document Number: FHWA-2026-0859)

Dear Administrator McMaster:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) offers the following comments on this Annual State Survey.

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

Respondents are required to answer 29 questions regarding Federal-aid grant payments and billing cycles. FHWA reviews the prior fiscal year (FY) survey questions to determine if updates are required based on the Departmental OIG external financial statement audit and/or process changes and improvements. States with a \$50 million dollar variance and at least +/- 20% variance or more are required to provide FHWA with an explanation. FHWA reviews the responses from the State/division offices for adequacy, and if required, and sends a follow-up email to the States/division offices to provide additional information.

1. Is the proposed collection necessary for the FHWA's performance?

- a. Ongoing reporting for each active grant is currently completed by the recipient. Since FHWA requires these filings now, we suggest this available information be utilized. If more information is needed, additional information could be requested in the grant reporting rather than creating additional or possible duplicative reporting on states when the information may already exist.

2. How accurate are the estimated burdens?

- a. Without knowing the exact information being sought, it is difficult to determine. Based on prior reporting required by FHWA, we believe the estimate is low. 29 questions can include a lot of information contained for multiple offices, tracking systems and federal agencies.

3. *Ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness and clarity of the collected information.*

- a. We recommend that FHWA use the information already submitted through the grant reporting process and augment the questions asked, if additional information is needed.

4. *Ways the burden could be minimized, without reducing the quality of the collected information.*

- a. We recommend that FHWA use the information already submitted through the grant reporting process, adding data fields if necessary.

Additional comments:

If additional information is needed beyond what is already collected by FHWA, requests should be made for specific information from the states that are affected, not by blanket requests to all states. Based on information currently being provided by the states, estimates could be created by OIG, and if questions arise or data gaps exist, the individual states could be contacted for any additional information. Additionally, there could be inconsistencies between how states are interpreting the requests. While this is not a problem if comparisons are only made within a state, it would seem more appropriate that FHWA report all states consistently, particularly if the information is already available.

Please contact Troy Suing, Capital Program Development and Management Director, at Troy.Suing@wsdot.wa.gov if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julie Meredith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent.

Julie Meredith, PE
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation