

Local Governments Determination on Permits

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Secretary of Transportation

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Director, Environmental Services Office

February 2018



RE: RCW 47.01.485 (2) – Report on local governments taking longer than 90 days to make a final determination on permits

The 2015 Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to track and report any permit application for a project, with an estimated cost of less than five hundred million dollars on a state highway, that took more than 90 days for local governments (cities, towns, code cities, and counties) to process following the submission of a complete application. The proviso states:

“The department must report annually to the governor and the transportation committees of the house of representatives and the senate in compliance with RCW 43.01.036 regarding any permit application that takes longer than the number of days identified in subsection (1) of this section to process.”

Proviso Response:

The timeframe for this report is for permit application packages submitted between October 3, 2016 and October 2, 2017. Based on information from WSDOT’s regional offices, for the timeframe stated above, seven WSDOT permit submittals took more than 90 days for local jurisdictions to issue.

Project name	Project cost (millions)	Local jurisdiction	Permit type	Days to process permit	Why did it take over 90 days?
Francis Road Intersection Improvement	\$3.50	Skagit County	Shoreline Substantial Development	110	Challenges with adequate staffing resulted in longer application processing times.
	\$3.50	Skagit County	Floodplain Development	116	
	\$3.50	Skagit County	Critical Areas	110	
Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock	\$350	City of Seattle	Building*	176	The rapid building and construction growth in the City of Seattle led to delays in permit processing.
	\$350	City of Seattle	Building*	121	
	\$350	City of Seattle	Building*	182	
	\$350	City of Seattle	Shoreline Substantial Development	176	

*Building permits were generated for three separate structures including a passenger-only ferry building, a terminal building, and a temporary passenger-only ferry shelter.

Should you have any questions, or need further information, please contact Megan White, Environmental Director, at 360-705-7480, or WhiteM@wsdot.wa.gov.