

Apprentice Utilization Advisory Committee Meeting

June 27, 2025

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Committee Members Present: Chris Christopher, Eddie Jezek, Jr (Iron Workers), Heather Kurtenbach (WA Building Trades), Billy Wallace (District Council of Laborers) John Hurd (Lakeside Industries), Jerry Vanderwood (AGC), Larry Jacquot (Industry Erectors), Valerie Whitman (Max Kunej), Tracy Cruz (Central Washington Asphalt)

WSDOT Staff Present: Chris Tams, Heidi Jensen, Andrea Dahl, Travis Mahlum

Guests Present: LNI – Jim Kaltenbaugh

Others Present: Erin Frazier (Washington State Building Construction Trades Council), Michelle Wilms (AGC), Julie Printz, Jodie Harris

Introduction/Welcome

Committee Member Update

Heidi – Josh Swanson is no longer with Operating Engineers. Additional committee updates – Valerie Whitman with Kunej accepted. Tracy Cruz will take over for Pamp with Central Washington Asphalt. Heather K will work with Heidi to find Josh's replacement.

Chris C. – RCW in place – advisory committee required. Intent is for trades and contractors to have forum to talk about apprenticeships. Thanked everyone for participating.

PASS Program Update

Travis M – WSDOT OECR - Apprenticeship and support services program. Dropped link in chat about PASS program applications for vendors for new biennium. Discussed PASS program history.

Budget Information

Chris C. – budget discussion – power point presentation - governor signed budget last week. Went over high clip budget regarding transportation. SR 18 pushed out most significantly, other projects pushed out indefinitely. Focus on preservation – challenge still for next biennium. Mid – late June will have most of program out for paving this summer. Because of front loading, leaves hole for 2026. Shared emergency projects around the state and challenges to keep up (Chuckanut Dr., SR 510, Carbon River Bridge)

Federal grant challenges – question about accepted federal grants. 15% of the funding comes from feds.

Workzone speed cameras are out. Making a difference in slowing people down.

Billy W – shared workzone speed camera information.

Heather K – asked for update on Carbon River Bridge – Chris says - \$120M to replace bridge (estimate...). Funding isn't available. About 25 people live on the other side of the bridge. Challenging issue due to proximity to housing, recreation, etc.

Jerry – federal funding – asked if we have seen any withholding of federal funds. Chris clarified they aren't withholding funds but expect us to sign off on language that may not follow state law.

- 1- Ensure complete cooperation with immigration
- 2- Ensure no DEI language

Chris – inconsistency overall with tariffs or other administrative language

Billy – overall, pleased with budget for transportation

Program Update

Heidi – program reports update. Completed projects report discussion – no comments; Physical completion report discussion – no comments; Active project report discussion – no comments; projects complete report – no comments; overall WSDOT completed; Heather stated there are a lot of out of work apprentices and there is room for improvement.

Apprentice Resource Sheet - Discussion

Heidi – resource sheet discussion – anticipate sending out at award with award documentation, making it available on website.

Valerie – appreciate effort for sheet. Still have subcontractors that don't know what an apprentice requirement is.

Erin Frasier – hear that apprentices aren't available in geographic area, but apprentices travel all over.

John Hurd – asking about who audits the work and the GFE submittal, approval process; wants to make sure he's instructing his folks correctly on process.

Heidi stated new changes in construction manual requiring quarterly outreach; Heidi stated Project Engineer has the authority to approve the GFE. More outreach has been happening between PEO and HQ.

Tracy – employ 19 apprentices through AGC; if they don't employ 20 -25% they wouldn't complete the goal (they must make up apprentice hours for subcontractors that don't participate). The only ones that get apprentices are themselves and their traffic control. Asked if subcontractors will be held accountable?

Heidi – currently don't have a requirement for the subcontractors – contract is with the prime contractor. Exempt from requirement because of 3 strike rule.

Tracy asked if we were going to follow City of Spokane and their specifications to allow certain hours to be exempt from the calculation.

Erin Frasier – legislative level discussion about subcontractor requirements. Awarding Agencies are permitted to do more than RCW.

Chris C. – WSDOT only has a contract with the prime contractor. Chris expressed the amount of contracts/subcontracts that would WSDOT be trying to manage.

Valerie – talked about removing small specialty subcontract hours to help with utilization or putting a \$ threshold on required participants. Prime can look at contracts through PWIA and see which contractors are complying.

Erin – talked about previous year legislation session making subcontract requirements.

Jerry – SB1015 was original version of bill. Idea is floating around and is controversial. 1050 added study language to look at utilization for DBE element.

Chris – GFE – want it to be robust process and not just a paper exercise. Asked for committee input about what they think and how the program is working.

Valerie – number one goal is to meet the hours and doesn't think Contractors are brushing off the requirement. Doesn't see just not wanting to meet the requirement without trying. Challenging work environment, challenging working with subs and making subs hire apprentices.

John Hurd – wants to make sure he's instructing his folks on the right way. The goal is to meet the goal through hours.

Chris – wants to make sure there is outreach between trade and contractor and if there are recognized challenges they are documented.

Jim K. – doesn't have any concern with WSDOT process.

Erin – other agencies will be looking at model. Other agencies see GFEs before projects are even beginning with anticipation of not meeting requirement. Other agencies will be looking at WSDOT.

Chris – local agencies are looking at WSDOT but we don't have any influence on local agencies.

House Bill 1549

Jim K – LNI – HB1549 discussion – change – required apprentice utilization plan prior to notice to proceed. Difficult to sift out last project to look at previous contract with apprentice utilization. LNI will develop an Apprentice Utilization Plan. Developing AUR website. Certain requirements required on utilization plan. AA can use it or develop their own but must meet the RCW requirements. Hoping the new requirements help. IT pieces may take a little longer – hoping to have the utilization plan done by the end of the year.

Erin – emphasized WSDOT requests for revisions to HB.

Heidi – we will continue to require a utilization plan for all contracts with the apprenticeship requirements. No plan to make exceptions when the goal has been met through labor

hours on previous projects. Makes sense to keep it to get thoughts of apprentices early.
Will continue using our form and will update it to keep it in compliance.

Jim K. – utilization plan will be posted to PWIA system.

Action Items

Request to add prime notification made to LNI – added to PWIA wishlist

Next Meeting Schedule and Topics

Schedule next meeting – December 2nd – 9:00 to 11:00

Meeting adjourned at 10:20.