



KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Capital Projects Oversight: 2020 Biennial Report

IMPROVING CAPITAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Capital Projects Oversight Program provides focused, independent oversight to promote accountability and improved performance of King County's capital endeavors and to provide timely and useful information to policy- and decision-makers. All program costs are funded through the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget. There is some overlap between this work and that of the Metro Transit Audit Program.

Capital Projects Oversight in 2018 and 2019

In 2018 and 2019, we focused our work on the County's highest risk capital projects and programs. We worked closely with those project teams to identify issues early and make plans to address them. Our work included closely monitoring the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) project and identifying steps to address emerging risks, tracking Metro Transit's progress in meeting its targets for an ambitious capital program to meet growing service demands, and evaluating required actions in response to the 2017 systems failure and catastrophic flooding at the West Point Treatment Plant.

We carefully monitored several other projects, such as the Children and Family Justice Center, the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station, the Joint Ship Canal Project, Courthouse and Civic Campus Planning, and the Algona Transfer Station. In concert with the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, our office facilitated the scoring of 105 capital projects to help determine which projects may face the most risk.

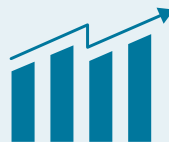
Key Results



WTD¹ created a strategy to mitigate risks from the 2017 catastrophic West Point flood event



King County identified recapitalization strategies and funding options for its downtown campus



Tracked Metro Transit's progress in meeting its \$112.9 million spending target for expanding capital infrastructure in 2019



Roads used less costly maintenance methods to extend life of county roads



PSERN² increased transparency of its progress, enhancing oversight and allowing for faster escalations of leasing challenges

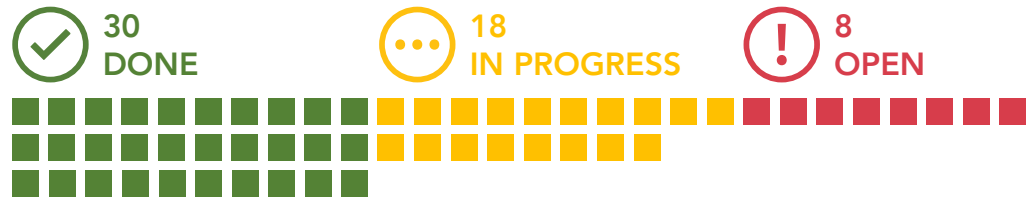
¹ Wastewater Treatment Division

² Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network

86%
TOOK ACTION

Action Toward Implementation

Following up on our recommendations increases transparency and accountability and creates momentum for positive change. In the past two years, we followed up on 56 audit recommendations. We track recommendations until they are complete.



Publications

Further information on these projects is available on the [Capital Projects Oversight](#) page of the King County Auditor’s Office website.

Oversight Reports

- *Capital Projects Risk Scoring*
- *PSERN Project Nine Months Behind Schedule and Cost Increased over \$20 Million since 2017*
- *Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network Project*
- *Transit Capital Program Quarterly Monitoring Report: Q1 2019*
- *Transit Capital Program Quarterly Monitoring Report: Q2 2019*
- *Transit Capital Program Quarterly Monitoring Report: Q3 2019*
- *West Point Treatment Plant Risks Will Not Be Fully Mitigated for Years*

Follow-Up Reports

- Combined Sewer Overflow
- Courthouse Revitalization
- FMD Project Delivery
- Pavement Preservation
- PSERN
- Small Construction Contracts
- Transit Capital
- Work Order Contracting

Team

KyMBER Waltmunson · King County Auditor

Michael Bowers · Capital Projects Analyst

Grant Dailey · Auditor

Sean DeBlick · Principal Auditor

Lynn DeWald · Capital Projects Analyst

Cindy Drake · Capital Projects Auditor

Brooke Leary · Audit Supervisor

Ben Thompson · Deputy County Auditor