

Washington State Auditor's Office
Accountability Audit Report

Whatcom Transportation Authority
Whatcom County

Report Date
July 25, 2014

Report No. 1012342

Issue Date
August 11, 2014



Washington State Auditor
Troy Kelley

Independence • Respect • Integrity



Washington State Auditor Troy Kelley

August 11, 2014

Board of Directors
Whatcom Transportation Authority
Bellingham, Washington

Report on Accountability

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your Authority to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the Whatcom Transportation Authority's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR

Table of Contents

**Whatcom Transportation Authority
Whatcom County
July 25, 2014**

Audit Summary.....	1
Related Reports.....	2
Description of the Authority	3

Audit Summary

Whatcom Transportation Authority Whatcom County July 25, 2014

ABOUT THE AUDIT

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Whatcom Transportation Authority from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the Authority. We also determined whether the Authority complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Payroll
- Vanpool service
- Cash receipting
- Open Public Meetings Act

RESULTS

In the areas we examined, the Authority's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The Authority also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

Related Reports

**Whatcom Transportation Authority
Whatcom County
July 25, 2014**

FINANCIAL

Our opinion on the Authority's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Authority's financial statements.

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the Authority's major federal programs, which are listed in the Federal Summary section of the financial statement and single audit report.

Description of the Authority

Whatcom Transportation Authority Whatcom County July 25, 2014

ABOUT THE AUTHORITY

The Whatcom Transportation Authority, created in 1983, serves approximately 205,000 Whatcom County residents. The Authority provides fixed route and vanpool services, as well as transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

A nine-member Board of Directors governs the Authority, which is comprised of elected officials from Whatcom County jurisdictions that benefit from the Authority. The Authority has approximately 220 employees and incurred operating expenditures of approximately \$26.6 million for fiscal year 2013.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

These officials served during the audit period:

Board of Directors:	Ferndale City Council Member Mel Hansen Mayor of Nooksack Jim Ackerman Mayor of Bellingham Kelli Linville Bellingham City Council Member Stan Snapp Bellingham City Council Member Jack Weiss Whatcom County Executive Jack Louws Whatcom City Council Member Pete Kremen Blaine City Council Member Paul Greenough Mayor of Lynden Scott Korthuis
---------------------	--

Note: Stan Snapp was replaced by Roxanne Murphy in January 2014

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

General Manager	Richard Walsh
Director of Finance	Patricia Dunn

Note: Richard Walsh retired and was replaced by Pete Stark in January 2014

AUTHORITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Whatcom Transportation Authority
 4111 Bakerview Spur Road
 Bellingham, WA 98226

Phone: 360-715-4502

Website: www.ridewta.com

AUDIT HISTORY

We audit the Authority annually. The Authority has been free of findings for the last 17 years.



ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

State Auditor
Chief of Staff
Director of Performance and State Audit
Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of State Audit
Deputy Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of Performance Audit
Deputy Director of Quality Assurance
Deputy Director of Communications
Public Records Officer
Main number
Toll-free Citizen Hotline

Troy Kelley
Doug Cochran
Chuck Pfeil, CPA
Kelly Collins, CPA
Jan M. Jutte, CPA, CGFM
Sadie Armijo
Mark Rapozo, CPA
Lou Adams, CPA
Barb Hinton
Thomas Shapley
Mary Leider
(360) 902-0370
(866) 902-3900

Website
Subscription Service

www.sao.wa.gov
portal.sao.wa.gov/saoportal/Login.aspx