

Department of Transportation employees save thousands on underwater inspections



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The Washington State Productivity Board recognized a team of five employees with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for saving taxpayers \$196,596.13.

“It’s always encouraging to see state employees go above and beyond to come up with money-saving improvements for their agency,” remarked Secretary of State Sam Reed, Productivity Board chair. “It makes taxpayers happy, and it gives employees a sense of ownership to see that their ideas are valued.”

The Bridge Preservation Office (BPO) Dive Team submitted a project improvement idea to train engineers as divers in order to perform mandated underwater inspections on Washington State public structures.

The Department of Transportation previously contracted with out of state consultants for underwater bridge inspection work. In addition to the savings, the quality of inspections and reporting has improved since the change from consultants to state employees.

The Productivity Board is committed to excellence in public service by demonstrating leadership. The Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Program encourage public employees to create, innovate, and apply first-rate ideas.

To learn more about the Teamwork Incentive Program or the Productivity Board visit www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard .