

Public Agency Project Coordinated Review Pilot



This limited-scope, short duration pilot is intended to test concepts that may lead to improved coordination and timeliness of permit application review for public agency projects. This pilot is one of several initiatives planned under the Permit Workflow Improvement Project (WIP) and the results will be evaluated to determine which process changes work best and should be incorporated long-term.

Benefits



Pre-Application Planning and Collaboration

This pre-application process allows applicants to receive assistance navigating complex regulations and resolving potential conflicts in design standards, application sequencing, or construction phasing prior to application submittal. This should significantly reduce delays in permit approval and better support the delivery of essential public facilities to Pierce County communities.



Coordinated Environmental Review

SEPA Lead Agencies receive a coordinated review from all Pierce County programs (stormwater, traffic, land use, fire marshal, parks, etc.) addressing all known concerns in a single, cohesive response, and allowing for a streamlined process.

Key Requirement



Participation in this pilot requires agencies to meet with Development Center staff and share information at an initial Customer Information Meeting and at the 30, 60, and 90 percent design stages. Contact the department to discuss eligibility for projects that are already underway.

Pilot Facts



Dates of pilot:

Sept. 5-Dec. 29, 2023



Participants:

Public agencies with eligible projects in unincorporated Pierce County.

Eligible participants and projects

- Government to government (tribes), local, state, and federal public agencies, including school districts, park districts, fire districts, and Pierce County departments.
- Project location must be in unincorporated Pierce County.

How to Participate

There are two ways to participate in this pilot:

- For agencies with projects ready for construction permitting, contact PCPermits@PierceCountyWa.gov with the application number(s) and request to be considered for “WIP Public Agency Coordinated Review.”
- For agencies with projects still in the planning or design stage, please complete the Pre-Application Coordination Application and submit online through [PALS+](#).

1

Submit the [Customer Information Meeting](#) application via PALS+.

2

Once the application is submitted, a Pierce County staff member will contact you to schedule a customer information meeting.

About the Permit WIP

The project aims to:



Improve permit processing times, consistency, and customer satisfaction by redesigning the permit application review process.



Update the Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department's organizational structure to facilitate a more streamlined review process for all applications.

Recognizing that our customer base is extremely diverse, this project aims to identify paths for professional customers to have access to an expedited review process, while infrequent customers continue to receive individualized assistance and education.

The project launched in January 2023 and is expected to run through June 2024.

