



WCIC represents the construction industry in Washington State. Members include:

American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington • Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Washington • Associated Builders and Contractors, Inland Pacific Chapter • Associated General Contractors of Washington • Building Industry Association of Washington • Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Contractors of Western Washington • Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors • Masonry Institute of Washington • Master Builders Association of King & Snohomish Counties • National Association of Industrial & Office Properties, Washington State Chapter • Puget Sound Chapter, NECA • Utility Contractors Association of Washington • MCA of Western Washington • Washington Aggregates & Concrete Association • Washington Air Conditioning Contractors Association • Asphalt Paving Association • Washington Asphalt Paving Association • Washington REALTORS Association • Washington State Conference of Mason Contractors

The Washington Construction Industry Council (WCIC) whose membership includes the many associations listed above and is the voice of the breadth of the construction industry across Washington.

Construction is vital for the livability and vitality of our communities. From roads and bridges to public works projects, business expansion to affordable housing, construction is key to Washington's economy.

The COVID-19 emergency creates unique and specific challenges for our members and Washington's economy. We support the work of our business partners to identify business and worker challenges across all sectors. The construction industry has identified sector-specific issues and solutions from our member organizations.

Our local, state, and national organizations work tirelessly to ensure we provide safe, durable, and reliable structures for our citizens. We are offering our collective expertise and commitment to training, safety, and community engagement.

From our experience, construction delays impact current contracts with consumers and businesses, bank loans, worker availability and increase the backlog across the industry. Construction work can be impacted by weather or other physical factors that, depending on the project and location, could lead to a complete loss of progress for the construction season or damage to structures if we are unable to proceed when mother nature allows. We ask that you consider our needs and work with our coalition on common sense, real-time solutions, and support the leadership necessary to keep our economy moving forward.

Our recommendations include:

- Ensuring all regulatory processes progress in a timely and efficient manner. State and local governments may need to deploy competent engineers/architects, third-party experts, use video or other technology to allow inspections and permitting processes to continue. The best way to support Washington's economy is expedite plan review and inspection using creative solutions.
- Allowing the flexibility to accept electronic signatures and process paperwork electronically, and
- Extending permit deadlines and keeping timelines open while we navigate this crisis.
- Providing flexibility from state and local governments for business and worker licenses. The COVID-19 emergency is a test of resiliency and steps should be taken to implement flexibility for renewal dates, training, continuing education, and other procedural requirements for obtaining and maintaining professional licensure.
- Delaying new rules, codes or ordinances during this emergency so that government and businesses can focus on completing those projects in-process, instead of also navigating a new regulatory system.

- Taking steps that state and local governments to implement an “all hands-on deck” approach to making sure construction move forward this year before weather becomes an obstacle. Please use electronic systems for permitting, plans review and inspections. The construction industry is willing work with our local and state partners to address questions of safety.
- Providing contractors and workers in Washington in current good standing receive “safe harbor” during this crisis for non-life safety procedural errors related to building and land use processes, and that state and local communities exercise maximum, fact-based discretion understanding that we are in this together.
- Utilizing Washington’s citizen volunteering boards, commissioners and councils as business sector think tanks for state and local government solutions in the time of the crisis.
- Increasing funding to provide relief for unemployment insurance, all businesses will need access to this coverage when dealing with current and expanding closures, delays, and economic impact – so will construction.
- Recognizing that construction is essential work in any additional orders and directives as Washington maneuvers through this emergency.

We are thankful for the leadership of the Governor, the legislature, and our local governments during this time of crisis.