Foreword

This manual is provided for our construction engineering personnel as instruction for fulfilling the objectives, procedures, and methods for construction administration of Washington State transportation projects. This manual contains two kinds of instructions depending on the subject matter and the nature of the work. In one case, where the activity is the inspection of contract work that is critical from a structural or operational viewpoint, the instructions prescribe detailed methods and procedures, or detailed performance measures, designed to assure the objective of a safe and adequate finished product. In other cases, typically in the areas of documentation and payment, the instructions are limited to describing the necessary objectives of the work without specifying the methods or procedures. The *Construction Manual* is intended as a reference book that is consistent with the language and intent of the *Standard Specifications*. In order to use this reference effectively, it is essential that the user has a thorough understanding of the contract, contract plans, contract provisions, and the *Standard Specifications,* as well as this manual.

Where specific methods and procedures are not included, the intent of this manual is to provide the project staff with a statement of the outcomes required and to allow the Region Construction Management and the Project Engineer to devise procedures accordingly. This manual provides basic instruction for identifying policies or laws that affect the construction administration work, however, the manual generally does not interpret these policies or laws. Compliance with policies, laws, and regulations is the duty of the Project Engineer, who may call on others, especially those authorized to enforce laws and regulations, at any time for assistance. In order to respond to the many situations that may arise on different contracts with different types of work, the instruction provided by this manual is general in character and is not to be construed as replacing, modifying, or superseding any of the provisions of the contract, contract plans, contract provisions, or *Standard Specifications.*

Decisions to deviate from the instruction provided in this manual must be based on engineering judgment and supportable as representing the best interests of the public and are to be made by the individual with appropriate authority.

Comments about the manual are always welcome and will be considered in future updates.

Robert E. Christopher III, P.E.
Director of Construction Division
State Construction Engineer