

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MEMORANDUM



To: Members of the Legislative Assembly

From: Office of the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Information Office at the Department of Administrative Services

Date: February 13, 2015

RE: Executive Summary for HB 3035 (2013) Relating to the Oregon Transparency Website

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### **Overview**

During the 2013 legislative session, HB 3035 was passed requiring DAS to develop a plan to add additional contracting information to the transparency website, including information for school districts and community colleges. This executive summary and the associated report are intended to meet the requirements of HB 3035. In addition to meeting the requirements contained in HB 3035, DAS has developed a high-level plan for the future of the website as a whole. This work was done in an effort to meet stakeholder needs without the need for additional legislation.

### **Method of Analysis**

The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Chief Information Office (CIO) worked collaboratively to develop a response to HB 3035 and also develop a high-level plan for the future of the website. This work included documenting what goes into maintaining the website to better understand the current state of the website. To gain an understanding of what would be needed for the future of the site, in addition to meeting the HB 3035 requests, COO and CIO staff worked with external stakeholders, including, members of the Transparency Oregon Advisory Commission, Governor's Office representative, union representatives, associations, and public interest groups.

### **Findings**

Currently, maintaining the transparency website is a manual and time-consuming process. There is one staff person assigned to manage and maintain the transparency website, in addition to their regular duties. Managing and maintaining the website consists of many different activities and tasks, including: oversight, acquiring needed data and information, and website updates. With the amount of work already being performed and the limited resources available it is difficult to make enhancements to the website.

Based on conversations, stakeholders were generally pleased with the amount of information currently available on the transparency website. However, there were several potential upgrades identified related to what stakeholders would like to see in terms of functionality and overall usability of the website.

The other main issue associated with getting information on the website, are the limitations in what data and data sets are readily available. The State of Oregon operates many legacy systems. These systems hold and maintain a vast amount of data and information, but were developed long before the transparency website. In many cases these systems do not have the reporting capabilities needed to easily report data and information. Overtime, system work arounds have been developed to assist agencies with day-to-day data needs, this further increases the complexity of getting and sharing data and information across the enterprise in a standardized format for the transparency website.

### **Conclusions**

#### ***HB 3035***

Based on information obtained, DAS will be able to provide most of the information requested in HB 3035.

Complete details of what is available and timelines for inclusion on the website are included in the full report. Below is a brief response to each element of data requested in HB3035 SECTION 1.

Request within HB 3035	Response
<i>(a) Information on expenditures made by state agencies under contracts, including the text of contracts and information on the work to be performed, or products or services to be provided, under the contracts.</i>	DAS can provide limited additional information, but is unable to provide full text or contract payments by contract.
<i>(b) Information regarding the terms of state agency contracts that is listed by categories, such as contracts not yet completed and anticipated completion dates, in a manner that allows persons accessing the website to search each category separately.</i>	The website already contains most of this information in a format that provides users with the ability to search.
<i>(c) Information regarding vendors and other contractors under state agency contracts that is listed by categories, such as, city, state, and zip code of a vendor's or contractor's residence, in a manner that allows persons accessing the website to search each category separately.</i>	The website already contains this information in a format that provides users with the ability to search.
<i>(d) Findings or determinations under ORS 279B.030 and 279B.036, and supporting documentation for those findings or determinations.</i>	Work related to these determinations is not currently completed or maintained by DAS. Due to the volume of determinations it is not feasible for DAS to collect and post this information.
<i>(e) Annual revenue, annual expenditures and contracting and subcontracting information for school districts and community colleges.</i>	Information on revenue and expenditures is already collected and can be added to the website. Contracting information is not currently collected and criteria have been identified as to what information can be made available. This will require a new reporting mechanism but could be added to the website sometime in early 2016.

**Enhancements to the Transparency Website**

DAS believes the transparency website is an important tool, giving citizens and other interested parties access to information about state government. Below is brief overview of what may be possible for the website:

Status Quo	Limited Enhancements	Major Enhancements
<p>Timeline: None</p> <p>Continue to maintain the website in the current format. The site will continue to function without making enhancements to increase functionality or features.</p>	<p>Timeline: 500 staff hours over 10-12 months; costing approximately \$14,000</p> <p>Creation of a web portal that will provide some of the functionality users of the website want to see using information that is currently available.</p>	<p>Timeline: Unknown</p> <p>Upgrade legacy systems to allow for better data and information for the transparency website.</p>

**Closing**

For HB 3035, DAS can work to provide the information that is available by early 2016. By dedicating resources DAS could also create a web portal with increased functionality, features, and a more user-friendly look and feel. If you have any questions or would like to see the full report please feel free to contact Renee A. Klein at [renee.a.klein@oregon.gov](mailto:renee.a.klein@oregon.gov) or 971-701-3796.