



## Association of Local Government Auditors

April 8, 2021

David Jones  
City Auditor  
PO Box 94729  
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: 2020 Knighton Award Winner

Dear David Jones:

The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) Awards Program Committee is pleased to announce that the City of Seattle, Office of the City Auditor, *Seattle Department of Transportation: Strategic Approach to Vehicle Bridge Maintenance is Warranted*, won the 2020 Exemplary Knighton Award in the Medium Shop Category.

ALGA was founded in 1985 to serve auditors who specialize in working with local governments. ALGA members represent approximately 300 local government audit organizations. Unlike the majority of auditors who work within a single industry, local government auditors must work in an environment that encompasses a wide variety of industries. Local government auditors are committed to helping their governments improve service delivery to citizens while doing so more efficiently and effectively with the limited resources available. In making the award, the judges commented:

For a large metropolitan coastal city with many converging waterways, highway bridges form critical public transit links. With seventy-seven bridges and 71% rated in Fair or Poor condition, effective management of limited maintenance resources is crucial to the City of Seattle. The need for developing a strategic plan is well-stated in the City Auditor's report— a comprehensive and compelling argument for the need for action on this important public safety issue. The judges found the subject matter to be highly relevant with the potential to be highly impactful. Detailed and well-written recommendations were developed from persuasive and clearly explained conclusions. The conclusions were logically drawn from clearly stated conditions - all of which was presented in a concise and visually appealing easy-to-read format.

To encourage increasing levels of excellence among local government auditors, ALGA created the Knighton Award in 1995 to recognize the best performance audit reports produced by local government audit shops in the previous year. Each year, local government audit organizations submit their best performance audit report to be evaluated against four criteria: (1) an audit scope that has the potential for significant impact, and is responsive to the needs and concerns of decision-makers and/or the public; (2) audit conclusions that are persuasive, logical, and firmly supported by the evidence, which was gathered using appropriate research methods and tools; (3) audit recommendations that are feasible, and will make government programs more effective and efficient; and (4) audit results that are communicated in a clear, concise way. Judges from peer organizations determined that the City of Seattle, Office of the City Auditor report was among the best of 2020.



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Congratulations for receiving this award!

Sincerely,

Larry Stafford, President  
ALGA

Hannah Gardener, Chair  
ALGA Awards Program Committee