



Administrator's Friday Letter

August 14, 2009

1. Progress on Survey

The City Council Worksession next Tuesday at 6PM will focus on fine tuning the survey. Bruce Brown from PRR will be in attendance and will walk through the main themes and the time limitations which drive content. The optimum time to be on the phone is twelve minutes. That prunes some of the content back by necessity. The online side of the survey doesn't have the same limitation. On August 25th a focus group drawn from the community will meet at City Hall to help test the questions. Among the objectives will be to make sure questions and answers are understood i.e. that we are clear and avoid terms that are not commonly recognized.

2. Budget Process

Departments are busy working on what will be a very difficult budget. Our most recent revenue numbers are being reviewed to determine if additional cuts will be necessary this year. We are operating at 10% below the original adopted budget and hope to see improvement with the transition in Fire Department staffing. The Council will have a goals and objectives session September 22nd. The draft report from the public outreach is scheduled to be available by that time. The Mayor's 2010 Budget will be delivered to the Council in draft form by October 13th.

3. Fort Lewis Traffic Conflicts on 118 Overpass

The Public Works Department is meeting with Wash DOT and Fort Lewis to seek remedies to the current traffic conflicts created by extensive use of the emergency base exit onto 118. The original agreements with Fort Lewis included promises that the exit would never be more than an emergency outlet. It has become more than that and occurs in violation of Wash DOT safety rules.

4. Bike Route off Mounts Road

We have received inquiry about a bike lane connection from Mounts Road to Hoffman Hill Blvd. Currently there is a gate and only emergency vehicle access. Public Works is reviewing the plat and options for providing access. The objective is to provide a north-south connection that would keep bikes off I-5 and perhaps highlight some of our great trails in the process.

5. Tacoma Concert Band: Don't forget to attend the band concert at Clocktower Park on Sunday evening at 6:30PM. It is a really good show.