



Administrator's Friday Letter

May 14, 2010

1. Point Defiance High-Speed Rail Bypass Project

a. Open House to be held for Bypass Project

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will hold an informational Open House on the Bypass project on Monday, May 17th, from 4-7 pm at the Clover Park Technical College - Rotunda Building, located at 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW in Lakewood. The open house will allow interested parties to see on the details of the project, view project maps and displays, speak with project staff, and provide comments about the project. This is to be an open house format – no formal presentations will be given. WSDOT has indicated that the purpose of the open house is to increase the community's understanding of the project and to identify specific audiences and issues to target with additional outreach. A copy of the open house notification from WSDOT has been posted to the City's website.

b. Environmental Assessment of the Bypass Project

WSDOT announced this week that it will conduct a project level Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Bypass Project. As part of this process, WSDOT will be inviting key stakeholders and municipalities within the project area to be part of an advisory team that will provide input and review of updated studies, specifically focusing on potential traffic impacts. WSDOT will also seek public comment during the EA process, beginning with the project informational open house on May 17th. The advisory team will include representatives from WSDOT, Sound Transit, Pierce County, JBLM, Lakewood, and DuPont. The advisory team will be meeting regularly to review and comment on updates to environmental work and analyses provided by the project team. The EA will be used to address changes since the prior analysis (which was initiated in 2006, with the Federal Highway Administration as the lead agency). Once completed, the environmental update will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration and will identify and evaluate potential key environmental impacts resulting from rerouting passenger trains between Seattle and Portland.

c. Future Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) Hearings

With the announcement that an Environmental Assessment will be conducted, it is expected that the UTC will be cancelling the hearings currently scheduled for June 7th to allow for the project EA to be completed and reviewed by the Federal Railroad before coming back to the UTC. More information on the EA process and cancellation of the UTC hearings will be provided as it becomes available.

2. Pendleton Gate Opening Update

As reported in last week's Friday Letter, the Pendleton gate located on Steilacoom-DuPont Road near Bell Hill Drive was opened this past Monday. The traffic flow has been less than

expected and is causing no traffic issues at this time. The gate will remain open on weekdays from 3:30PM to 6:30PM for exiting vehicles only until June 1st.

3. Sign Code

City staff went out this week to document non-compliant signs located within the City. Letters will be sent out to those businesses informing them about our sign code regulations and what they need to do to be in compliance. The City Attorney will begin reviewing the sign code and identify issues to be addressed as we move forward in this ongoing process.

4. Planning Agency Appointment

The City Council unanimously appointed Brian Shrader to the vacant position on the Planning Agency at the May 11th City Council meeting. This means that for the first time in quite a while all of the positions will be filled.

5. Child Car Seat Fitting Class

DuPont Fire Department has partnered with Mary Bridge Children's Hospital to offer a Child Car Seat Fitting Class in DuPont. The graduates of this class will be in DuPont on Thursday, May 20th from 10 AM to 1 PM for car seat fitting to the citizens of DuPont. This event will take place at the DuPont Fire Station located at 1780 Civic Drive. Certified technicians will inspect car seat for recalls, correct installation, and answer your safety questions! Bring your vehicle and care seat owner's manual with you. For questions call Chief Hull at 253-405-8048.

6. Permanent Stage at Clock Tower Park

Following a presentation at the May 11th City Council meeting, approval was given to proceed with erecting a permanent stage at Clock Tower Park. The Residential Owners Association (ROA) has agreed to construct the stage and donate it to the City. It is the desire of both entities to have the stage available for use by the July 4th celebration.

7. Arbor at Clock Tower Park

The walking path under the Arbor located at Clock Tower Park has been temporarily closed as of May 12th. Staff is exploring repair options for the structure and is hoping to secure donations for the necessary materials.

8. Fire Department SAFER Grant

The DuPont Fire Department is working with City staff to evaluate the opportunity to apply for a Federal Government SAFER Grant for fire personnel. The grant will open in June and if approved could provide additional fire personnel for a two year period starting in 2011 or 2012. The program funds each new employee at approximately \$120,000 for a two year period. Early research indicates that this grant would fund approximate 60% of the total cost of compensation and training for each position awarded. This topic will be discussed further at the May 25th City Council meeting.

9. Meeting with Colonel Brittain

Mayor Jenkins and City staff meet with Colonel Brittain of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) to discuss issues of mutual interest including: public safety opportunities, Fire mutual aid agreement, Steilacoom-DuPont Road concurrent jurisdiction, I-5 Corridor (Bridgeport to Mounts Road) traffic impacts study, special events and recreation, Mounts Road emergency access, and Sequelitchew Creek and Lake. Follow-up tasks and targets were identified for these items.