

Puget Sound Regional Council



May 12, 2009

The Honorable Dave Reichert
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert:

The Puget Sound Regional Council wishes to express its support for the King County Department of Transportation's request to include the Access Improvements to SR 520 – Novelty Hill Road Improvement project in the next transportation authorization act as a High Priority Project. The project supports the regional policies adopted in the regional long-range growth strategy, VISION 2040, and is included in the adopted regional long-range transportation plan, Destination 2030, as project number 454.

Project Merits

The Novelty Hill Road Improvement project is one of only three east-west connectors in northeastern King County. It experiences heavy congestion during morning and afternoon rush hours due to growth in and around the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Developments (UPD). Between 1996 and 2001, this two-lane road experienced a 48 percent increase in average daily traffic. Because Novelty Road has only two lanes, this increased traffic creates severe rush hour congestion which delays vanpool, carpool, and transit service. Because of substandard roadway width and congested traffic, the roadway is not conducive to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Novelty Hill Road provides a critical connection from the eastern areas in the Snoqualmie Valley, Redmond Ridge and Trilogy development to employment and service centers in Redmond, Bellevue, and Seattle. This project will provide congestion relief for Novelty Hill Road as well as adjacent routes such as Avondale and Union Hill Roads. These roadways all provide access to SR 520. Specific improvements to SE 196th Avenue will divert traffic from Avondale Road and provide an alternative route to SR 520.

Transportation concurrency requirements constrain the full build-out of the Redmond Ridge UPD and other residential and commercial areas in southeast Redmond. High-density development along Avondale Road and in the Redmond Ridge UPD provides housing for a significant number of residents commuting to Redmond, Bellevue, the Microsoft Campus, and other adjacent employment centers. Improvement to Novelty Hill Road will provide for an adequately sized corridor that serves current and expected demand.

King County Department of Transportation

Public Comment

Five public meetings have been held to solicit public input on the Novelty Hill Road project. In addition to these meetings, individual meetings with property owners and updates to various community groups have and continue to be held.

Other Sources of Funding

Source	Amount
SAFETEA-LU 2010 Reauthorization	5 million
Washington Dept. of Ecology	1 million
Washington State Transportation Improvement Board Grant (unsecured)	7 million
King County (local) bond revenue	23.5 million
King County Road Fund	2 million
Mitigation Payment System (local revenue)	2.5 million
Total Construction Cost	\$41 million

Thank you for considering this request for funds to maintain and improve the transportation infrastructure in the central Puget Sound region.

Sincerely,



Bob Drewel
Executive Director,
Puget Sound Regional Council



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

CONGRESSIONAL SITE VISIT CERTIFICATION

In the interests of accountability and transparency, we require that either the Congressman or a member of the Congressman's professional staff visit each project site requesting federal funding. This will enable our office to more thoroughly assess the merits of each project and ensure that limited taxpayer funds are invested wisely.

Upon completion of the congressional site visit, please complete this form and have a representative from the organization (not a representative from a lobbying firm) sign it. The Congressional Staff Member visiting the site will be responsible for collecting the form at the time of the visit.

I hereby certify that on May 1, 2009 Congressman Dave Reichert/a professional staff member from Congressman Dave Reichert's office visited our organization/project for the purposes of reviewing our request for federal funding.

PROJECT NAME:

NE North Hill Road

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT:

May 1, 2009

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING:

Susan Oshelm

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING:

Grant Administrator, Road Services

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST:

King County, Dept. of Transportation

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST:

201 S. Jackson St. Ste. 300
Seattle, WA 98104

SIGNATURE:

Susan Oshelm

DATE:

5/1/09

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER:

Lincoln Vander Veer

SIGNATURE:

[Signature]

DATE:

5/1/09