



Transportation Services

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May 14, 2009

The Honorable Dave Reichert
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert:

Pierce County, Washington, supports and submits a request for \$10,000,000 in High Priority Project funding in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation for:

- **176th Street East Extension – 130 Ave E to Calistoga Ave E, Pierce County, WA**

We would like to provide you with the following additional details about this project.

1. Project merits: This major east-west route will provide an extremely important facility for the movement of traffic from I-5 to SR-7 and the gateway to Mount Rainier; to the mid-County employment center/industrial area of Frederickson; to SR-161 and the major residential and retail centers of the South Hill of Puyallup; and down the hill to SR-162 and the Orting Valley. In addition to providing a major facility for the movement of traffic to and from the valley, this project will provide for a major evacuation route in the event of an eruption or major lahar flow from Mt. Rainier. The current access in and out of the Orting Valley is very limited and the construction of this new route is very important for providing additional access and the saving of lives in the event of a Mt. Rainier emergency. This project will extend 176th Street E from its current terminus in the South Hill area of Puyallup, Washington to BR #31195-A at Calistoga Street E in Orting, Washington. 176th Street E is a major arterial to the west of this new project and it is currently being designed and constructed to a 5-lane facility from SR-161 to SR-7. To the west of SR-7 is the alignment of SR-704, the so-called Cross Base Highway which extends all the way to I-5. When all of these roadway facilities have been constructed, including this project, the entire corridor from I-5 to SR-162 will be designated as SR-704.

2. Public engagement: In 1993, Pierce County completed the 176th Street Easterly Extension Corridor Study. As part of this study, there was an extensive public involvement process that included public meetings, an Interagency Review Team, and an Opinion Survey. This process helped shape the recommendations contained in the final report. Currently this project is included in our annual Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and a public involvement process is required prior to the adoption of this program. This process includes several public meetings within the County and a general comment period to receive feedback. As we move forward with this project, Pierce County will continue to involve the public through the required environmental documentation processes.

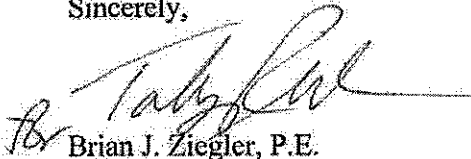


3. Additional sources of funding to complete this project: This project includes \$2,500,000 of County Road Funds, \$38,500,000 of developer in-kind services, most likely construction of a portion of the roadway, and a future \$20,000,000 request from FEMA for the remaining portion. The construction of this route is specifically identified as a high priority for construction in Pierce County's adopted Natural Hazard Pre-Mitigation Plan. Inclusion in this plan is required by FEMA prior to receiving any grants.

4. How this request meets the 80% cost requirement: The estimate to complete this project is \$71,000,000. If this request for \$10,000,000 is approved, this would complete the funding for this roadway, assuming the funds identified above are received.

Thank you for considering this project request. As we mentioned, this project is an important link for both our transportation network and our evacuation plan for the Orting Valley. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Gary N. Predoehl, P.E. at 253.798.2768.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Ziegler, P.E.
Public Works and Utilities Director

BJZ:GNP:kfi

Ec: Gary N. Predoehl, P.E., Transportation Planning and Programming Manager
Brian D. Stacy, P.E., County Engineer
Christina M. Mudgett, P.E., Transportation Programming Supervisor



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 5/6/09, 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: 176th Extension

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: 5/6/09

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING: George Walk

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Director of Government Relations

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: Pierce County

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: 955 Tacoma Ave S #302 Tacoma, WA 98402

SIGNATURE: B. W. Walk DATE: 5/6/09

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 6 MAY '09