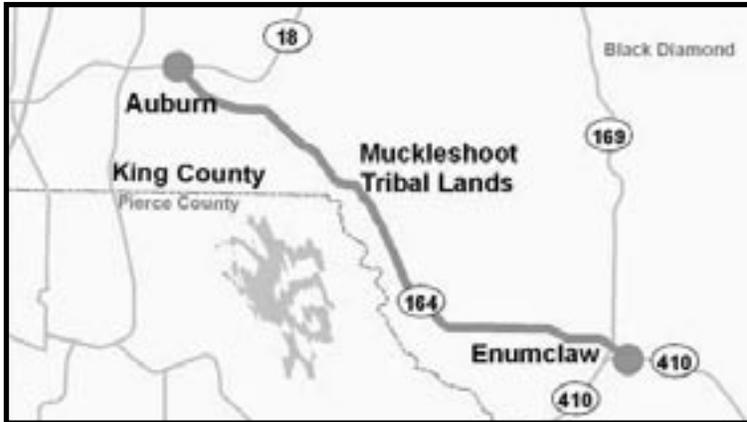


SR 164 Corridor Study



Above: SR 164 Corridor Study Area (Auburn to Enumclaw)

164

Overview

State Route 164 (SR 164) serves urban, rural, recreational, and agricultural areas from the city of Auburn through the Muckleshoot Tribal Reservation to the city of Enumclaw. The area's population has grown considerably in recent years, and SR 164 is now experiencing the growing pains of increasing traffic congestion and accidents.

Why is WSDOT Studying the SR 164 Corridor?

SR 164 is an important rural and commuter highway; a regional highway for southeast King County; a "main street" for Auburn, Enumclaw, and the Muckleshoot Tribe; and a main point of access for Enumclaw Plateau residents. This freight connector experiences mounting traffic congestion and has a number of high accident locations.

This 15-mile highway also provides access to Mt. Rainier National Park and the White River Amphitheater on the Muckleshoot Reservation.

The 2004 Legislature provided \$650,000 in funds to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to evaluate transportation problems, identify potential improvements, and recommend transportation projects for implementation.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by contacting the Renee Zimmerman, WSDOT, Urban Planning office (206) 464-1273 usually two weeks before a meeting. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service, or Tele-Braille at 7-1-1, Voice 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to Renee Zimmerman, WSDOT, Urban Planning office.

Title VI Statement to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

Environmental Protection

WSDOT and its study partners make every effort to assess and avoid or minimize environmental effects from our projects. During Phase I, the SR 164 Corridor Study identified known environmental and cultural/historical resources, such as, endangered/threatened species, wetlands, geologic hazards, aquifers, air/noise issues.

The environmental fact sheet provides specific information on the study's environmental inventory. The Route Development Plan identifies environmental concerns that must be studied in greater detail when a recommended project develops the necessary Environmental Impact Statement. Please visit the WSDOT Environmental Services Web Site for more information. (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/>)

Increasing safety is one of our priorities

The Phase I list of 34 short-term improvements included many safety improvements. During Phase II, all projects submitted for recommendation will initially be screened for pedestrian and driver safety. Additionally, projects directed at reducing and eliminating traffic chokepoints also improve safety.



Above: Evening commuter traffic on Auburn Way



Above: Example of awkward highway intersection



Above: School bus pick-up and drop-offs create congestion and safety hazards

For more information:
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[www.wsdot.wa.gov/
projects/sr164study/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr164study/)

Key Issues So Far

- Congestion in western portions of SR 164
- Options for linking SR 164 to SR 18
- Pedestrian and vehicle safety
- Numerous uncontrolled driveways and other access points

For more information, visit

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/
projects/sr164study/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr164study/)

The End Result

Phase I of the SR 164 Corridor Study was completed in 2001 and resulted in a list of 34 short-term improvements, some of which have already been implemented by WSDOT and our partners.

The final product of Phase II will be a Route Development Plan (RDP) containing Community and environmental sensitive recommendations that will increase safety and Travel reliability; reduce person and vehicle delay; manage access; and respond to growth in the years to come.

The RDP and the list of recommended projects will be developed by the Corridor Working Group (CWG). The CWG is made up of local city, county, regional, and state partner agencies responsible for guiding the Route Development Plan effort. The CWG partners are: Auburn, Enumclaw, King County, The Muckleshoot Tribe, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and WSDOT. The partners are also the agencies responsible for funding and implementing the RDP recommended solutions. The CWG encourages input from partners and citizens to develop consensus-based recommendations that address transportation problems along the corridor.

The recommendations will include:

- Immediate-term projects that can be funded and/or implemented in the first 6 to 18 months.
- Short-term proposals for mobility and safety improvements in the next 6 years.

- Long-term recommendations for mobility and safety for the next 20-25 years.

Many of these projects will need detailed design and evaluation for environmental impacts before being implemented. Some projects will move forward as WSDOT projects; others will be implemented collaboratively with partner agencies; or will be done by local agencies.

What are Route Development Plans?

Route Development Plans (RDPs) are planning studies for state highway corridors. Within the study area, existing and future transportation related problems are identified and appropriate solutions proposed. Corridor lengths may vary from a few miles to an entire highway route and proposed solutions may include several alternatives. The RDP analysis focuses on issues that might affect the individual state highway and surrounding communities. Those issues include: operating conditions (traffic flow), safety concerns, environmental issues, population and land development, and right-of-way. The RDP will also evaluate proposed future transportation solutions.

Project Benefits

- *Funding.* The recommended set of improvement projects will be produced in a Route Development Plan that is then incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan and the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) for prioritization and funding.
- *Safety.* Separation of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, installation of signals and designated highway crossings are some possible recommendations that will improve safety.
- *Congestion Reduction.* Recommended projects will seek to reduce or eliminate traffic bottlenecks and chokepoints where possible, improving the flow of people and goods through the corridor.

What is the project timeline?

We expect the RDP process to take 18 months and conclude with the publication of the final RDP, but WSDOT and its partners are attempting to finish certain parts of the process sooner to be able to submit the projects to the legislature for funding consideration.

- *September 2004 - December 2004.*
Develop immediate-term list of alternatives.
- *September 2004 - March 2005.*
Develop short-term and long-term alternatives. Hold open houses.
- *March 2005 - August 2005.*
Evaluate and refine alternatives.
- *September 2004 - September 2005.*
Hold open houses. Draft RDP. Hold open houses.
- *Late 2005.*
Complete recommendations and produce RDP.

How can I get involved in this project?

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us. Please contact us to provide your input on possible SR 164 improvements. Public outreach activities have already begun and will include open houses, project updates, and e-mail updates. It is not too late to provide your comments. We will also continually update this Web site throughout the process.

