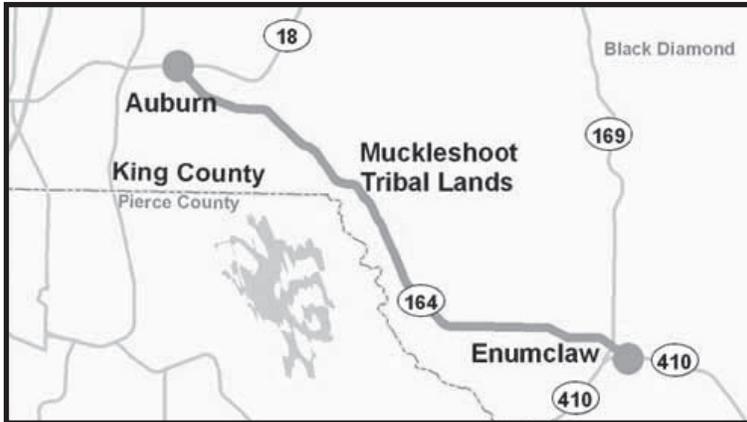


SR 164 Route Development Plan



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 looking at ways to improve SR 164?

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 Renéé 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 Renéé 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.

The End Result

Phase I of the Route Development Plan (RDP) 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 containing community and environmentally sensitive transportation recommendations to 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: the cities of Auburn and 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 projects. The CWG encourages input from partners and citizens to develop consensus-based recommendations that address transportation problems along the corridor.



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/sr164/RDP](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr164/RDP)

Key Issues So Far

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

For more information, visit

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr164/RDP

The recommendations will include:

- Short-term proposed mobility and safety improvements for the next six to ten years.
- Long-term mobility and safety recommendations for the next 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 projects are proposed. Corridor lengths may vary from a few miles to an entire highway route and proposed projects 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.

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.* Possible recommended improvements include: separation of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, installation of signals, and designated highway crossings.
- *Congestion Reduction.* Recommended projects will seek to reduce or eliminate traffic bottlenecks and chokepoints where possible, while improving the flow of people and goods through the corridor.

What is the project timeline?

The study is expected to take 18 months and conclude with the publication of the final RDP. WSDOT and its study partners are attempting to finish parts of the process sooner so some of the recommended projects can be submitted to the legislature for funding consideration.

- *September 2004 - December 2004.*
Develop list of projects.
- *September 2004 - March 2005.*
Develop short-term and long-term projects.
- *March 2005.*
Hold first set of open houses.
- *March 2005 - August 2005.*
Evaluate and refine projects.
- *September 2004 - October 2005.*
Public Involvement
- *October 2005.*
Hold second set of open houses.
- *Late 2005 - Summer 2006.*
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: community group presentations, six open houses, project updates, and a project Web site. It is not too late to provide your comments.

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.

Please visit the WSDOT Environmental Services Web Site for more information. 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 or eliminating traffic chokepoints also improve safety.

Will this project impact tribal resources?

At WSDOT we seek to address the concerns of the tribal nations using the process outlined in Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act and the WSDOT Tribal Consultation Policy adopted in 2003 by the Transportation Commission as part of the WSDOT Centennial Accord Plan www.wsdot.wa.gov/tribal/Centennial_Accord.htm. For more information, visit the WSDOT Tribal Liaison Web site www.wsdot.wa.gov/tribal.

State Route 164 is a primary access route for the Muckleshoot Tribal Reservation. Government-to-government consultation between WSDOT and the Muckleshoot Tribe has been initiated. The Muckleshoot Tribe is a key partner of this study and secured some of the original funding for it. The Muckleshoot Tribe will be involved in the project decision-making through their participation in the SR 164 Corridor Working Group.

