

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.  
WATCH IT WORK.**

### What's Inside **I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street Update**

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## You're Invited!!

Please come to the public open house to find out more about the results of the Environmental Assessment, and talk to representatives from WSDOT about your thoughts on the project.

**Thursday, September 15, 2005**

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**WSDOT Area Engineering Office  
Conference Room  
1411 Rush Road in Chehalis**

#### **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 reason accommodation by contacting the event sponsor, Richard Hensley at 360-740-8600 by September 6, 2005. 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 the event sponsor's phone number.

**Stop by Anytime**

**Title VI Statement to the Public:** It is WSDOT's policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or 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 complain forms and advice, please contact WSDOT's OEO Title VI Coordinator at 360-705-7098.

### Project Contact Information

We want to hear from you! Call, write or e-mail WSDOT with any questions or comments about this project.

Richard Hensley, WSDOT Area Engineer  
1411 Rush Road, Chehalis, WA 98532

Telephone: 360-740-8600

E-mail: [henslerg@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:henslerg@wsdot.wa.gov)

Don't forget to check out our project Web page:  
**[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/RushRd13thSt/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/RushRd13thSt/)**

## We've Come a Long Way:

### I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street Project Progress Report

In the last year, the WSDOT team has made great progress on the I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street project. Milestones completed include:

- Selecting a preferred project alternative and completing the preliminary design.
- Holding a combined open house and access hearing on April 5, 2005, in Chehalis as part of the approval process for adding a new interchange at LaBree Road.
- Receiving preliminary approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for new access onto I-5 at LaBree Road.
- Completing the Environmental Assessment and Biological Assessment for the project.

The final steps are to receive and respond to your input on the preliminary design and the environmental analysis. The public will be given an opportunity to provide input at an open house on September 15 (see meeting announcement below left).

The intent of the open house is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to become familiar with the project, the possible effects of the project, and how WSDOT will minimize project impacts. We hope to receive your comments and concerns prior to completing the environmental process. Once all public comments are addressed, the FHWA will prepare a decision document on whether or not the project can move forward.

## Public Open House

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## Economic Returns for Lewis County

In addition to reducing congestion and improving safety, one of the key purposes of the I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street project is to enhance the economic vitality of Lewis County by providing additional access to the Port of Chehalis. Already, Fred Meyer Stores is expanding their distribution facility at the Port of Chehalis Industrial Park. The Port of Chehalis intends to build upon this momentum to attract additional businesses and jobs to the region.

We estimate that this project will take over two years to be constructed, beginning in 2007. WSDOT engineers project a construction cost of \$32.4 million out of an overall total project cost of \$41.4 million. Typically, construction workers and contractors purchase materials and daily supplies from local vendors, which brings an influx of money to the area during construction.

## Preliminary Design: Decisions and Refinements

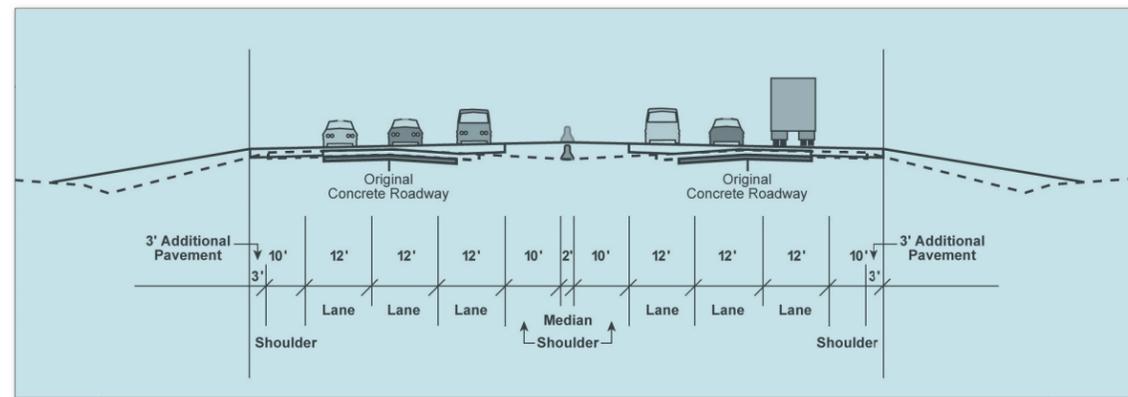
In spring 2004, WSDOT held an open house to receive public input on several alternatives being considered for the I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street project, including the new LaBree Road interchange. Three alternatives were under consideration: do nothing ("no-build"); widen I-5 to three lanes in each direction and use a single point urban interchange (SPUI) at LaBree Road (see at right); or widen I-5 to three lanes in each direction and use a diamond interchange at LaBree Road.

WSDOT found that the SPUI design, which passes all interchange traffic through one signalized intersection on the overpass above the interstate, would perform the best for the projected traffic volumes. The SPUI option was selected as the project's **preferred alternative**. I-5 will be widened from two 12-foot lanes to three 12-foot lanes in each direction, including a 10-foot wide outside shoulder and a 22-foot paved center median with a concrete barrier in the middle (see cross section below). For improved safety, a new signal will be added at the existing 13th Street interchange. This signal will be installed during WSDOT's 2006 construction season.



**Future Single Point Urban Interchange**

Source: WSDOT Design Visualization Group



Cross Section of I-5 Widening

## Keeping and Enlarging Wetlands Near Newaukum River

In preparation for the I-5, Rush Road to 13th Street project and others like it in the area, WSDOT has constructed a 230-acre wetland mitigation bank. This six-year-long effort is the largest mitigation bank ever federally authorized in Washington State. The mitigation bank is located adjacent to the North Fork Newaukum River, east of Chehalis in Lewis County.

Typically, wetland replacement work occurs at the same time as the highway construction project

(concurrent mitigation). Creating a wetland bank ahead of time allows the new wetland to be fully functional by the time the existing wetlands are impacted by construction.

Construction of the North Fork Newaukum mitigation bank involved restoring water flow patterns and elevations, planting trees, and other work to replicate the forest and wetlands that occurred historically at this site. This work resulted in restoration and enhancement of degraded wetland and streamside habitat adjacent to both forks of the Newaukum River. For more information on wetland banking visit this Web page: [www.mitigationbanking.org/whowere.htm](http://www.mitigationbanking.org/whowere.htm).

## What We Found Out During the Environmental Analysis

We found that the project will not significantly affect any environmental, economic, or social resources. The key effects of the **preferred alternative** are:

- **Vegetation:** Project will remove 71.7 acres of non-native vegetation during construction. To mitigate this effect, WSDOT will reseed exposed areas and implement weed controls.
- **Wetlands:** Project will fill 8.7 acres of wetlands, which will be replaced by the North Fork Newaukum Wetland Mitigation Bank (see previous article).
- **Water Quality:** Project will reduce stormwater storage and infiltration due to 11.7 acres of increased impervious surface area. Stormwater will be treated per the WSDOT Highway Runoff Manual.
- **Economics:** Project will have a positive effect, providing better access to the Port of Chehalis Industrial Park and a general increase in jobs, business, and tax base with improved roadway safety.



**Existing**

- **Relocations:** Project will require relocation of one residence. WSDOT will ensure fair, equitable treatment of the property owner with just compensation for property acquisition and payment of all transaction fees.
- **Transportation:** Project will have a beneficial effect, improving traffic operations in the Napavine-Chehalis corridor.

## Please review and comment on the Environmental Assessment

The 30-day public comment period for the completed Environmental Assessment (EA) is from August 30 to September 30, 2005. Copies of the EA are available for review during normal business hours at:

Timberland Regional Library District, Chehalis Branch  
76 NE Park Street, Chehalis, WA

Chehalis City Hall  
80 NE Cascade Avenue, Chehalis, WA

WSDOT Chehalis Area Engineering Office  
1411 Rush Road, Chehalis, WA

Timberland Regional Library District, Centralia Branch  
110 S. Silver Street, Centralia, WA

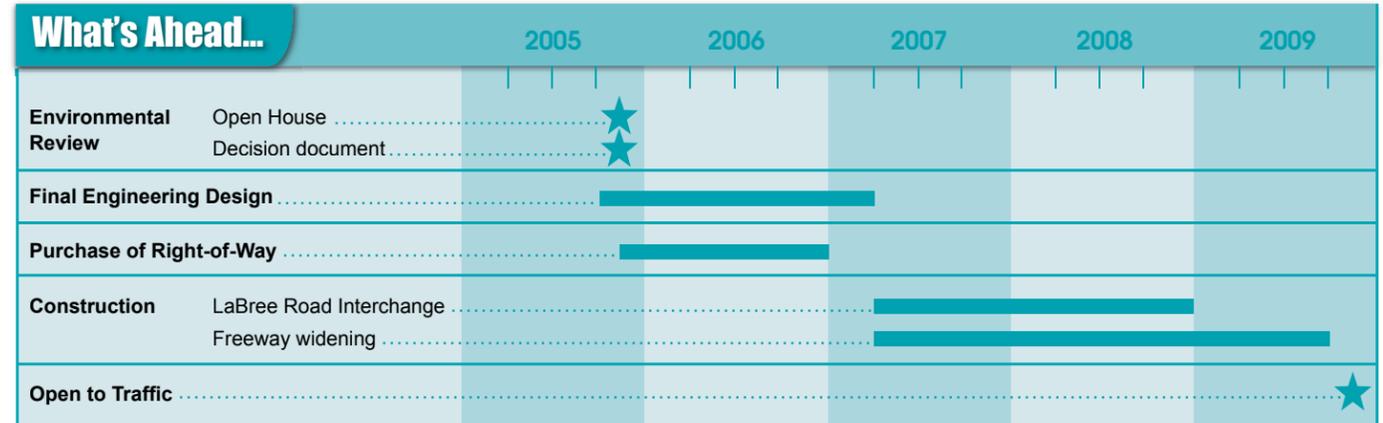
Federal Highway Administration Office  
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501, Olympia, WA

Copies of the EA may also be purchased for \$10.00, or reviewed and/or copied by calling Richard Hensley at WSDOT's Chehalis Area Engineering Office at 360-740-8600.

**Please submit all comments on the EA in writing by September 30 to:**

**Becky Michaliszyn**  
WSDOT Environmental Services Manager  
P.O. Box 1709  
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709  
E-mail: [michalb@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:michalb@wsdot.wa.gov)

## What's Ahead...



★ Key Dates