



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2005

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WSDOT Presents Draft Project Recommendations at Final Open Houses for State Routes 164 and 169

SEATTLE – The Washington State Department of Transportation will host four open houses in October in southeast King County to get public input on potential transportation improvements for State Routes 164 and 169.

SR 164 is a highway linking Auburn, Enumclaw and the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation area, and it carries tourist traffic to and from the Mount Rainier National Park. SR 169 serves urban, rural, and agricultural areas from Enumclaw to Renton.

WSDOT is working closely with its partners to produce a Route Development Plan for each corridor -- SR 164 includes the cities of Auburn and Enumclaw, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, King County, and the Puget Sound Regional Council. SR 169: the cities of Black Diamond, Enumclaw, and Maple Valley, Renton, King County and the PSRC.

WSDOT and its partners have reviewed each route; examined traffic and safety trouble spots; collected and incorporated public input; and identified a list of potential projects to improve safety and keep traffic moving. Both studies will be completed in early 2006.

WSDOT invites the public to review and comment on these draft proposals for both corridors at open houses in Renton, Enumclaw, the Muckleshoot Reservation and Auburn.

Auburn - SR 164**

Tuesday, October 4, 2005
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Chinook Elementary School
Gym
3502 Auburn Way S

Muckleshoot Reservation - SR 164

Thursday, October 6, 2005
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Philip Starr Center
Cougar Room
39015 172nd Avenue SE

Enumclaw - SR 169 and SR 164

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Thunder Mountain Middle School
Multi-purpose Room
42018 264th Ave SE

Renton - SR 169**

Thursday, October 13, 2005
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Renton Community Center
Banquet Room
1715 Maple Valley Hwy

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***Information and staff from the SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project and the SR 167 Corridor Study will also be available at the open houses in Renton and Auburn.*

WSDOT also wants to hear from people who cannot attend the open houses. The public can contact Project Manager Seth Stark by phone at (206) 464-1288 or by e-mail at starks@wsdot.wa.gov. Project information also is available on the Web at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr164/rdp and www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/sr169/rdp.

The open house locations are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by contacting the event sponsor, Renee Zimmerman, at (206) 464-1273. 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.

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Drivers can now get real time traffic and weather information by dialing 5-1-1 from most phones. This new traveler information system builds upon the highly successful Washington State Highway hotline that managed 4.6 million calls each year. Callers can also use 5-1-1 to get statewide construction, mountain pass condition, and state ferry system information, as well as toll free numbers for passenger rail and airlines.