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**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

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Environmental and Hydraulic Services Office
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January 6, 2009

The Tacoma Tribune
Attn: Legal Desk
1950 South State Street,
Tacoma, WA 98405

RE: I-5: M Street to Port of Tacoma Road - HOV
MP 132.88 to MP 136.61 WSDOT Project # XL 3349
Determination of Nonsignificance

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2009

OR HOV Office

Dear Legal Editor:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires the Department of Transportation to initiate a public notice on all environmental actions. This allows the public an opportunity for comment on the proposed projects. We have elected the public notice procedure of sending a copy of a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) to your paper because of its general circulation in the project vicinity.

Please publish the attached DNS once on January 8, 2009 as a **PAID LEGAL NOTICE**. For accounting purposes, please refer to the notation of **XL 3349**, and send the invoice and affidavit of publication to:

WSDOT - Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Program
Attn: Claudia Cornish
PO Box 47376
Olympia, WA 98504-7376

Should you require further information, please contact Harjit Bhalla at (360) 570-6704.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sawyer
Environmental & Hydraulic Manager
Olympic Region

JBS:ab:lfm

Enclosure: Determination of Non-Significance

cc: John Ho, w/enclosure, MS: 47376
Jon Deffenbacher, w/enclosure, MS: 47376
Project File, w/enclosure
SF0106009(5142)

SCANNED

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Description of Proposal: WSDOT proposes to improve Interstate 5 (I-5) from M Street to the Port of Tacoma Road by constructing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in three stages under the Tacoma/Pierce County HOV program. The three proposed projects: I-5: M Street to Portland Avenue – HOV; I-5: Portland Avenue to Port of Tacoma Road – Southbound HOV; and I-5: Portland Avenue to Port of Tacoma Road – Northbound HOV include constructing two new HOV lanes (one in each direction of travel) on I-5 between MP 132.88 and MP 136.61.

Major project features include:

- Ramp metering and HOV bypass lanes at the 54th Avenue East interchange to improve safety and merging;
- Widening of six existing bridges within the project limits;
- Constructing permanent storm water treatment facilities and a floodplain mitigation site;
- Constructing a retaining wall and traffic barrier in the median at the Fife curve;
- Constructing two noise barriers. One South of I-5, just north of the 54th Street Interchange and a second North of I-5, between the 54th Street Interchange and Wapato Creek. Both will be approximately 24 feet high and 1,600 feet long;
- Compensating for wetland impacts at an advance mitigation site on Hylebos Creek;
- Enhancing riparian vegetation along the streams within WSDOT right of way;
- Removing existing Puyallup River Bridge and reconstructing a new I-5 bridge spanning over the Puyallup River on south and northbound;
- Realigning and reconstructing a new southbound I-5 off-ramp to East 27th Street and also reconstructing East 27th Street from the Puyallup River Bridge off-ramp;
- Reconstructing East Bay Street from East 27th Street to East 28th Street and reconstructing the northbound I-5 on-ramp and off-ramp bridges over T-street;
- Constructing a temporary ramp connector from southbound I-5 to East 27th Street;
- Reconstructing city street approaches to East Portland Avenue and East R Street;
- Constructing new retaining walls at Portland Avenue;
- Widening and seismic retrofit of I-5 bridges over East Portland Avenue and East Bay Street;
- Upgrading and adding signage, illumination, providing new ramp metering, signal system at multiple intersections, concrete guardrails storm water collection facilities, and water quality treatment facilities;

Proponent: The Washington State Department of Transportation

Location of proposal, including street address if any: The project limits are located in the cities of Fife and Tacoma, Pierce County within the WSDOT right of way between I-5 MP 132.88 and MP 136.61. The project limits are within Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Sections 1 through 4, 8 through 13, 37, and 38. .

Lead Agency: The Washington State Department of Transportation

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental

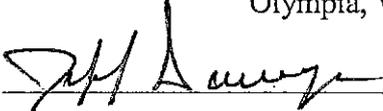
checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request. The checklist is available electronically at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/HOV.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by: JAN 22 2009

Responsible Official: Jeff Sawyer
Position/Title: Environmental & Hydraulic Manager
Olympic Region

Phone: 360-570-6701

Address: PO Box 47417
Olympia, WA 98504-7417

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 1/5/2009