

Project Schedule

..... Spring, 2004	Project design begins
..... November, 2004	Project reaches 30% design
..... December, 2004	Newsletter #1 released
..... January, 2005	Open House #1
..... March, 2005	Project reaches 60% design
.....	
..... April, 2005	Newsletter #2 released
..... Spring, 2005	Environmental documentation & permitting
..... TBD, (Spring, 2005)	Access Hearing
..... July, 2005	Design completed
..... Summer, 2005	Right-of-way acquisition
..... September, 2005	Newsletter #3 released
..... October, 2005	Project advertised and bids solicited
..... TBD, (before construction)	Open House #2
..... Spring, 2006	Construction begins
..... Spring, 2007	New connector ramp opens to traffic

the Connector

I-205 - MILL PLAIN EXIT - 112th CONNECTOR PROJECT

December 2004

IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.



Join us for the Open House



January 12, 2005

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cascade Middle School

13900 NE 18th Street

Vancouver, WA

Please stop by anytime and join us in the school cafeteria!

The first open house will introduce the project to the public and present the preliminary design. Information will be provided about the project schedule, upcoming public involvement opportunities and other projects in the area.

The public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project, its design and any important issues or concerns the city and WSDOT should consider while finalizing the design.

Project Design Moves Forward

A project is currently underway to provide a direct connection to NE 112th Avenue from the northbound I-205 off-ramp to Mill Plain Boulevard. It is being designed and constructed as part of a joint effort between the city of Vancouver and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). This project will improve both safety and mobility in this rapidly growing area of east Vancouver. Preliminary design is well underway, and construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2006.

This project represents strategic transportation improvements to the I-205 freeway ramp network and the Mill Plain Boulevard corridor that have been in the works for many years. Mill Plain Boulevard between I-205 and SE 164th Avenue has reached its maximum traffic capacity, which limits the area's development and traffic growth. The city of Vancouver is leading the I-205–Mill Plain Exit–112th Connector Project because it will help alleviate congestion on Mill Plain Boulevard and allow for anticipated future traffic growth.

Get Involved, Stay Informed

This newsletter is the first of several opportunities you will have to learn about this project, from preliminary design through the construction phase. Through newspaper ads, newsletters, a project Web page and the local media, we will let you know what is going on and how you can participate. We want to know what you think.

You can send us your comments or questions in writing, via e-mail, or give them to us when you attend a project open house. For more information, please see *Project Team Contacts* on the next page.

City of Vancouver
Jeff Schmidt
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i205millplaine112



I-205-Mill Plain Exit-112th Connector Project

Why are we building this project?

The close proximity of traffic signals and high traffic volumes along Mill Plain Boulevard result in long delays and back-ups at the intersection of Mill Plain Boulevard and Chkalov Drive. This congestion, combined with high volumes of traffic exiting I-205 northbound onto Mill Plain Boulevard during peak travel hours, results in back-ups on the I-205 northbound off-ramp.

Vehicles often line up in the exit lane and impede traffic flow on northbound I-205 and westbound State Route (SR) 14. This congestion poses significant safety concerns and contributes to delays and motorist frustration. Traffic studies indicate that a large number of the motorists using this exit are trying to access NE 112th Avenue. Constructing the connector ramp will allow these motorists direct access to NE 112th Avenue from northbound I-205, without the need to enter Mill Plain Boulevard.

Project Benefits

When constructed, this project will:

- improve safety and reduce traffic back-ups on the northbound I-205 off-ramp to Mill Plain Boulevard;
- reduce traffic delays at the intersection of Mill Plain Boulevard and Chkalov Drive; and
- provide a direct link to NE 112th Avenue from I-205 northbound, which will reduce the number of vehicles currently using Mill Plain Boulevard to access NE 112th Avenue.

How much will it cost?

The total estimated cost of this project is \$13.4 million. The city is providing approximately \$1.4 million for preliminary engineering, design and right-of-way acquisition. The state is providing \$12 million for construction with designated funds from the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding (or "Nickel") Package.

Steady Progress

- **1999:** WSDOT begins work on the I-205 Corridor Study, which looks at ways to keep traffic moving along I-205, while allowing for safe travel between SR-14 and SR-500. Between 1999 and 2001, a variety of public outreach work is done, including open houses and a series of meetings with a Citizen's Advisory Committee.
- **2000:** City of Vancouver applies for, and receives, a \$700,000 federal Urban Mobility Grant to begin preliminary engineering on the NE 112th Avenue connector ramp.
- **2001:** WSDOT completes the I-205 Corridor Study. A variety of mobility improvements were recommended in the study, including construction of the NE 112th Avenue connector ramp. WSDOT begins work on an *Access Point Decision Report* for interchange improvements recommended by the study.
- **2002:** WSDOT completes *Access Point Decision Report* and submits it to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review.
- **April 2003:** FHWA conceptually approves the *Access Point Decision Report*.
- **March 2003:** State Legislature passes Nickel Package, which funds design and construction of statewide transportation and multi-modal improvement projects. Due to the city's strong support of the project and its low relative cost, the proposed I-205-Mill Plain Exit-112th Connector Project is selected to receive Nickel funding.

Other Area Projects

In January 2005, a consultant hired by the city of Vancouver will begin work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the other transportation improvements recommended in WSDOT's *I-205 Corridor Study* and *Access Point Decision Report*.

The EA will outline impacts to the natural and built environments resulting from the recommended improvements. It will also help the city and WSDOT develop preliminary plans for constructing additional projects along the corridor. There will be public involvement opportunities related to the EA over the next three years that will occur separately from the I-205-Mill Plain Exit-112th Connector Project.

In addition, there are several other projects in the area that are designated for future construction:

- Construction tentatively scheduled for 2007: Build a second left-turn lane on the I-205 southbound off-ramp to Mill Plain Boulevard.
- Planned: Improve signal timing on Mill Plain Boulevard east of I-205.
- Planned: Interconnect NE 112th Avenue traffic signals between SR-500 and McGillivray Boulevard.
- Under study: Widen NE 18th Street between NE 87th Avenue and NE 162nd Avenue.

Project Team Contacts

Call, write or e-mail the team with your questions or comments. Visit our project Web page at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i205millplaine112/. We want to hear from you!

Jeff Schmidt, Project Manager
City of Vancouver
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
(360) 696-8290, extension 8581
jeff.schmidt@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Don Owings, Area Engineer
WSDOT
PO Box 1709
Vancouver, WA 98668
(360) 905-1500
i205MillPlain@wsdot.wa.gov