I-5 Transportation Alternatives and Operational Traffic Model Study

TRC Meeting #6 Summary
April 29, 2010

TRC members in attendance:

Forest Sutmiller	WSDOT, Olympic Region		
Mike Villnave	WSDOT, Olympic Region		
Jesse Hamashima	Pierce County Public Works	Project Team	
Minh Vo	National Guard (Camp Murray)	Bruce Haldors	Transpo Group
Peter Zahn	City of DuPont	Jon Pascal	Transpo Group
Thera Black	Thurston County Regional Planning Council	Mike Swenson	Transpo Group
		Richard Warren	WSDOT, UPO
J. Duncan Crump	WA Military Dept.	Jilma Jimenez	Berger Abam
Vince Bozick	JBLM		
Dirk Brier	PSRC	City of Lakewood	
Chris Picard	WSDOT	Dan Penrose	
Shuming Yan	WSDOT	Desiree Winkler	

Welcome, Introduction, & Status Update

Dan Penrose provided the general project status and overview of the agenda for the meeting. The agenda included a discussion regarding the DRAFT Executive Summary prepared by the project team as we all as a general discussion regarding next steps and a "Road map" to push the implementation of these improvements forward.

DRAFT Executive Summary Comments

The following comments on the DRAFT executive summary were provided by TRC members at the April 29 meeting. These comments, not summarized in any particular order of priority, will be considered and addressed in the final version.

- Need to develop a one/two page summary, executive summary is a good document, but contains more information than is reasonable for the quick read by decision makers
- More clearly identify the purpose of the I-5 corridor and the critical role it plays in the region and in serving JBLM access needs
- Consider a different photo of the Madigan gate, depicts I-5 in a free-flowing state, which is not consistent with peak hour conditions, may be misleading to readers
- Highlight broader issues for the corridor. The detailed issues are good, but need high level issues for policy makers to use as discussion points. Use of headings in the text could achieve this
- Timing/implementation plan should be included in the summary
- Confirm with FHWA that the term "proposed" is acceptable to use in this document at this point in the process
- Better demonstrate that the improvement concepts address the issues
- Highlight freight issues and impacts of the improvements in terms of cost and benefits
- Consider the prioritization of the Thorne Lane interchange and whether it should be tied solely to the Cross-Base Highway project. Consider the merits of the improvements at the interchange on a standalone basis
- Identify transit issues in the executive summary as that was considered in the analysis

- Organize project costs by groupings, don't show as standalone interchanges
- Identify percent impact of the military on I-5 traffic volumes
- Communicate urgency of the project – Why now, what will happen if we do not address the deficiencies of the corridor
- Identify TDM strategies within the document
- Relate the improvements to WSDOT's 3-prong approach for improvements

Next Steps

The project team is working on the revisions to the executive summary and the creation of a one/two page summary. The technical report is anticipated to be distributed to the TRC members in June. The TRC members expressed an interest in a follow-up meeting to further discuss the funding strategies for this project.