Washington State
Department of Transportation

Project
COORDINATION

We meet regularly with local and regional planners and decision-makers, such as the cities of Bellingham and Ferndale, Whatcom County's Metropolitan and Regional Transit Planning Organizations and transit agencies. This coordination will continue throughout the Freeway Master Plan process, as we work to develop long-term improvements to I-5 and ensure we design integrated solutions that complement local comprehensive plans and support all freeway users.

Do you know which I-5 interchanges in Bellingham are the worst? If so, we're listening.

We will visit local libraries, community centers, farmers' markets and malls with project information. We will be available to answer questions and provide details.

To get involved and to see our public involvement schedule, visit our project Web page at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/bellinghamonofframps

Feel free to call or email:

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling the Washington State Department of Transportation at (360) 705-7097. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1 and ask to be connected to (360) 705-7097.

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Washington State
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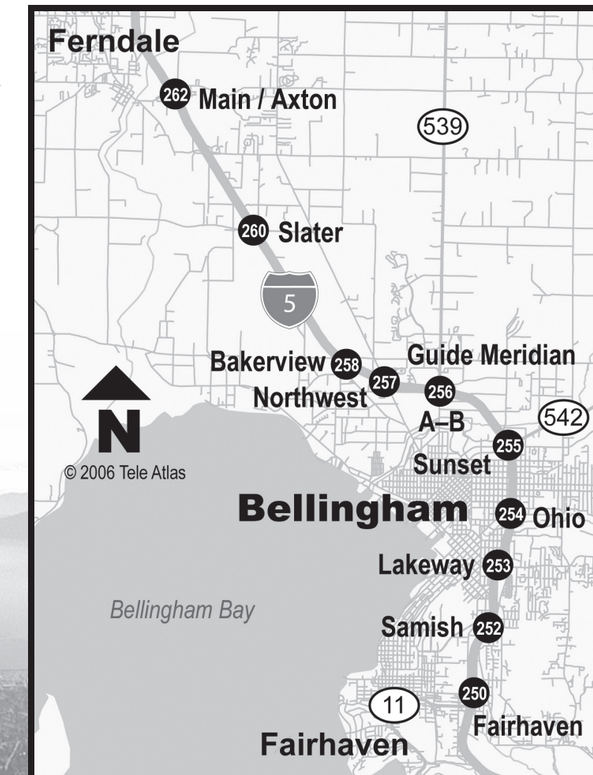
Fall 2006

Interstate 5 Master Plan - Fairhaven to Ferndale

It's no secret that collisions and congestion in Whatcom County are increasing, especially on Interstate 5. And they will only continue to get worse as the population and local economy grow.

I-5 has changed very little since it was first built in the 1950's. Yet, the population has grown significantly. Now is the time to find the choke points and problem areas, and create solutions that will improve safety and relieve congestion.

With your help, we will analyze every I-5 interchange from Fairhaven to Ferndale; looking for the problems, developing solutions and building improvements. We want to be proactive and have a comprehensive plan of improvements for I-5 before congestion in Whatcom County ends up like bumper to bumper traffic in Seattle.



Interstate 5 Master Plan

We will build a comprehensive Freeway Master Plan for I-5 in Whatcom County. To do this, we will analyze every interchange, including nearby streets, roads, driveways, and stoplights, between the State Route 11/ Fairhaven Parkway interchange (exit 250) in Bellingham and the Main Street/Axton Road interchange (exit 262) in Ferndale.

Two Phases

We expect to complete the Freeway Master Plan in two phases.

Phase ONE

We will identify the existing geometric, safety and operational deficiencies in the corridor and then combine it with projected traffic growth for the area, to predict how bad congestion will be in the future. This will help us determine where the greatest needs are and what the solutions will be to improve safety and relieve congestion along I-5.

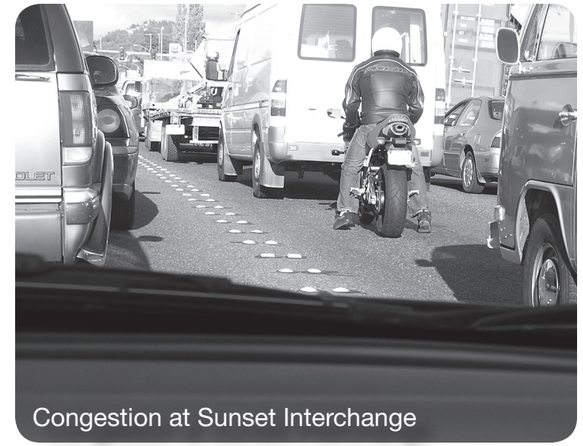
Phase TWO

We will use the data we've gathered in phase 1 to write the Freeway Master Plan. The Freeway Master Plan will describe current freeway conditions, forecast future conditions, and make recommendations for improvements to ramps, interchanges and connected side streets.

Key dates:

April 2006	Begin phase 1
January 2007	Complete phase 1; begin phase 2
July 2007	Start Preliminary Engineering
April 2008	Complete phase 2 and design solutions
Spring 2010	Begin construction after Vancouver Olympics

Web page: **www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/bellinghamonofframps/masterplan.htm**


Congestion at Sunset Interchange

Congestion at Bakerview Interchange

Project FUNDING

This project is funded through the following sources:

2005 Gas Tax (Partnership Funding)	**$1,000,000.**
2003 Gas Tax (Nickel)	**$875,000.**
Total funding available from all sources	**$1,875,000.**

MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT.

IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK.

An additional $14,200,000 in 2005 Gas Tax (Partnership Funding) will fund engineering and construction of I-5 ramp improvements between Samish Way and Sunset Drive.

I-5 congestion

Congestion at Fairhaven Interchange