

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING AND OPEN HOUSE

I-5, M Street to Port of Tacoma Road HOV Projects

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will issue a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) on July 31, 2009, for three I-5 HOV projects that extend about 3.9 miles between M Street and Port of Tacoma Road. This notice and environmental hearing provide the community an opportunity to exchange information with WSDOT on community effects from the proposed projects. This purpose is in accordance with and pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Highway Act (Title 23 U.S.C., 101 et. seq.) and amendments.

WSDOT proposes building HOV lanes on I-5 in three projects in the cities of Tacoma and Fife, in northern Pierce County, to increase mobility, improve safety, and reduce congestion. Specifically, WSDOT proposes to construct southbound and northbound HOV lanes, improve ramp alignments, add auxiliary lanes, reconstruct the Puyallup River Bridge, and widen and seismically retrofit some of the bridges on I-5. Additionally, WSDOT will upgrade stormwater collection and treatment facilities. The project will result in additional impervious surface, with effects to wetlands, streams, floodplains, vegetation, and wildlife. There will also be an increase in noise. WSDOT will mitigate for these effects as appropriate.

Environmental Hearing and Open House

WSDOT invites the public to attend an environmental hearing and open house to learn more about the projects and provide written and verbal comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA).

The environmental hearing and open house will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on August 18, 2009, at Lincoln High School, 701 South 37th Street, Tacoma, WA 98418. Plans, maps, environmental documents, and other project information will be on display. Interpreters speaking Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Russian will be at the meeting to help facilitate communication.

The public may also comment on the Supplemental EA via e-mail, internet or fax. Written comments not received at the environmental hearing and open house must be postmarked or sent by August 31, 2009 to be included in the official public record and considered by project administrators. Project questions and comments should be submitted in writing to the WSDOT Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Team Environmental Manager, Carrie Berry, at:

Mail: 724 Quince Street SE, Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501

Email: berryc@wsdot.wa.gov

Interested persons may also view the Supplemental EA document and appendices on or after July 31, 2009 at:

- WSDOT Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Project Office (address above);
- The following Pierce County libraries: Gig Harbor/Peninsula; Lakewood; Parkland/Spanaway; Milton/Edgewood; South Hill and University Place;
- Tacoma Library (downtown location) in the Local Tacoma Northwest Reference Section;
- Fife City Hall
- WSDOT Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Program website at:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/piercecountyHOV/>

Lincoln High School is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation may request written materials in alternative formats; large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk, please call (360) 705-7097. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service, or Tele-Braille at 7-1-1, Voice (800) 833-6384, and ask to be connected to (360) 705-7097.

FHWA and WSDOT ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally-assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding WSDOT's Title VI Program, you may contact WSDOT's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.