



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 302 / Elgin Clifton Rd to SR 16 - Corridor Study

Project Update

June 2008

Moving Towards a Plan for SR 302

In the past year, we've made significant progress toward determining the most effective way to improve safety and mobility on SR 302. Our background work from 2007 and early 2008 is helping us to analyze the traffic conditions, safety issues, environmental concerns, and community interests along the route, and to project how these factors will change in the coming years. This work forms the basis of an important alternatives screening process that we'll be kicking off this summer. We will be announcing community meetings associated with that process as soon as they are scheduled.

A report on our website details many of our recent findings. The report, called "Existing Conditions and Problem Definition," can be found at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/ProjectDocuments.htm

Funding Reduction Changes Course of Study

The SR 302 Study budget was reduced from \$5 million to \$2.5 million during the last Legislative session. At that time, it was important for the Legislature to move money in order to address budget shortfalls in a number of other WSDOT projects.

With less money available, we've had to adjust our work plan. The original plan was to pursue a final decision document called an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. With our current budget in mind, we believe it's still possible to conduct a study using the same standards as before, except that a draft document will be the result. Given the options, we think this is the most productive use of time and dollars for this study at this time.

We're pleased to report that the "SR 302/Creviston to Purdy" shoulder and center turn lane improvement project remains funded for construction in 2012. Although there are no other projects funded for construction at this time, the draft EIS we're working towards today will help us to identify new projects for funding, to permit those projects once funding becomes available, and ultimately to improve the timelines for funded project.

Study Limits are Determined

Our goal is to develop a decision document that will match the needs of the traveling public who use SR 302. In considering the information we've gathered so far, in discussions with the community and otherwise, we found two fundamental transportation issue areas needing attention.

The first relates to congestion and safety on the route east of the Key Peninsula Highway intersection. This area is heavily influenced by predictable morning and afternoon commute trip patterns. West of Key Peninsula Highway, congestion is not an issue. The community served by this part of the route is concerned with safety issues and regional connections that are the nature of many rural routes.

These differences have led us to consider the study now in two parts. Our decision is to work first on the portion of the route east of the Key Peninsula Highway intersection, in order to determine the long term strategy there. Upon concluding this first study, it was our original intention to initiate a second study for the corridor west of Key Peninsula Highway. However, the recent reduction in funding (see previous article) makes this second study very unlikely at this time.