SR 502 CORRIDOR WIDENING

IMPROVING SAFETY • INCREASING CAPACITY • REDUCING CONGESTION

I-5 TO BATTLE GROUND

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

JUNE 2009

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

Washington State Department of Transportation

"Washington's Future Just Got Better" MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT

IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK.

THIS PROJECT IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS 'SR 502 / I-5 TO BATTLE GROUND – ADD LANES'

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Abstract

FHWA-WA-EIS-09-01-D

SR 502 Corridor Widening Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The existing SR 502 corridor needs to be widened and improved to enhance safety and mobility between NE 15th Avenue and NE 102nd Avenue. The Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with 18 federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes, plan to widen and improve the existing corridor to reduce collision rates and decrease congestion on SR 502.

SR 502 serves as one of two primary access routes from the City of Battle Ground to the regional highway system (I-5) and the Portland–Vancouver metropolitan area. Traffic congestion and collision rates on SR 502 are increasing as more and more drivers use this highway. By 2033, daily traffic volumes are projected to nearly triple. If the project is not built, the increase in traffic congestion could triple or quadruple travel times within the corridor compared to today.

The draft environmental impact statement evaluates a Build Alternative and a No Build Alternative and their potential effects on the natural and built environments. This analysis also considers construction, indirect, and cumulative effects. A preliminary preferred alternative is identified.

Submitted pursuant to:
National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(c))

State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C, Revised Code of Washington)

Submitted by:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Washington State Department of Transportation

Dean Moberg, Area Engineer
Federal Highway Administration

5/14/09
Date of Approval

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Washington State Department of Transportation

5/12/09
Date of Approval

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Chris Tams at (360) 759-1310 or (866) 279-0730. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 711.

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Fact sheet

Project title

SR 502 Corridor Widening Project

Project description

The SR 502 Corridor Widening Project proposes improvements to approximately five miles of SR 502 (NE 219th Street) between NE 15th Avenue and NE 102nd Avenue. As Clark County's population has dramatically grown over the last decade, automobile traffic has increased, leading to an increase in traffic congestion on SR 502. The rate of collisions on SR 502 in the study area also has increased steadily over the past several years.

Population growth in Battle Ground and the surrounding areas is expected to substantially increase traffic on the corridor in the future. Therefore, the need for the project is to reduce collision rates and decrease congestion on SR 502. By 2033, daily traffic volumes are projected to nearly triple. If the project is not built, the increase in traffic congestion could triple or quadruple travel times within the corridor compared to today.

This draft environmental impact statement evaluates a No Build Alternative and a Build Alternative. Under the No Build Alternative there would be no improvements to SR 502 other than normal maintenance activities. The Build Alternative would widen the existing SR 502 from one travel lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction with a median treatment separating westbound and eastbound travel. Signals would be added at three intersections (NE 29th Avenue, NE 50th Avenue, and NE 92nd Avenue), and the existing signalized intersection at NE 72nd Avenue would be improved and expanded. SR 502 would be a limited access facility with fewer driveway connections. Except at the four signalized intersections where u-turns would be allowed and two directional median openings where left-turns from SR 502 would be allowed, turns would be restricted to right-in/right-out turning movements at minor intersections and driveways along the corridor. Paved shoulders that could be used by pedestrians and bicyclists would be constructed along the north and south side of SR 502 for the entire corridor, and sidewalks would be provided in the rural commercially zoned area near Dollars Corner. Crosswalks would be installed at signalized intersections. The Build Alternative is the preliminary preferred alternative.

Lead agencies

Washington State Department of Transportation
Southwest Region
PO Box 1709
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709

Federal Highway Administration
Washington Division
711 S. Capitol Way, Suite 501
Olympia, WA 98501

The Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation are co-lead agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act. Washington State Department of Transportation is the lead agency under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

Responsible SEPA official

Megan White, Director
Washington State Department of Transportation
Environmental Services Office

Document availability

The draft environmental impact statement can be accessed at: **www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR502/Widening**.

The draft environmental impact statement is also available on CD-ROM and can be obtained by contacting:

Chris Tams
Washington State Department of Transportation
Southwest Region
11018 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682

Printed copies of the draft environmental impact statement are available for review at:

- Battle Ground Community Library
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library
- Ridgefield Community Library
- Washington State University Vancouver Library
- Woodland Community Library
- Clark College Library – Cannell Library

- Washington State Library
- Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

Related appendices (discipline reports and technical memoranda) are available on CD attached to each printed copy of the draft environmental impact statement. This document is also available for purchase at Washington State Department of Transportation Southwest Region Office, 11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682.

CDs and Executive Summaries are available at no charge. The price for the printed copy draft environmental impact statement is $20, which does not exceed the cost of reproduction or distribution.

Comment period

The 45-day comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will begin on June 5, 2009 when notice of availability is published in the Federal Register. Washington State Department of Transportation will accept comments through July 20, 2009.

Review comments and contact information

All written comments should be sent to:

Chris Tams
Washington State Department of Transportation
Southwest Region
PO Box 1709
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709

or

Dean Moberg
Federal Highway Administration
711 S. Capitol Way, Suite 501
Olympia, WA 98501

Comments can be emailed to: **swGorge@wsdot.wa.gov**

The public can access the draft environmental impact statement and comment online at: **www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR502/Widening**.

Public hearings

A public hearing to provide information and accept comments on the draft environmental impact statement will be held on:

June 23rd, 2009
Washington State Department of Transportation –
Southwest Region Office
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Anticipated permits and approvals

Anticipated permits and approvals that would be required for the project include the following:

Federal

- Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers
- Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service
- Farmland Protection Policy Act farmland conversion impact rating score from the US Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation with the Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and Chinook Indian Tribe
- US Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) evaluation prepared for the Federal Highway Administration

State and Regional

- Clean Water Act, Section 401 water quality certification from the Washington State Department of Ecology
- Hydraulic Project Approval from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction stormwater permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology

Local

- Critical Areas Report Review from the City of Battle Ground
- Wetland, floodplain and habitat permits from Clark County to comply with the habitat conservation, floodplain regulation and wetland protection ordinances

Authors and principal contributors

See the List of Preparers in Appendix V of the draft environmental impact statement.

Date of issue of draft environmental impact statement

June 5, 2009

Subsequent environmental review

The comment period ends July 20, 2009. After the comment period ends, the lead agencies will respond to comments. A preferred alternative will be identified, and issuance of a final environmental impact statement is anticipated by winter 2009/2010. The final environmental impact statement will include copies of all comments submitted during the comment period and responses from Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Following issuance of the final environmental impact statement, a record of decision will be issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

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