



EAST WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL

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DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 12, 2010

Senator Linda Evans Parlette
415 Legislative Building
PO Box 40412
Olympia, WA 98504-0412

RE: WSDOT right-of-way surplus process

Dear Senator Parlette:

This letter is a follow-up to previous correspondence regarding the potential surplus of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) right-of-way along the east bank of the Columbia River in the East Wenatchee area. To address your request, and to provide guidance to WSDOT and the Legislature, this letter provides the recommendation of the City of East Wenatchee and Douglas County with regards to this surplus process.

You may recall from the results of the "More Than a Trail" project and the comments expressed at the November 15, 2007 meeting, the overriding local sentiment is that this community places the highest value on this transportation resource. This corridor provides a parallel route to SR 28 - keeping the non-motorized traffic off of that busy arterial. The loss of a significant portion of the right-of-way for this corridor would be deleterious to potential transportation infrastructure in the future.

As we mentioned in our January 12, 2010 letter, we intended to work on the next stage of planning for the WSDOT/Loop Trail corridor in 2010. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints and limited staff resources this year, a more comprehensive planning effort along that corridor was not possible.

The City Council, Mayor and County Commissioners held a study session on September 27, 2010 to develop a proposal to provide you, and WSDOT, with a clear indication of the community sentiment regarding the potential disposal of WSDOT right-of-way. Subsequent to the study session, in response to concerns expressed from various parties, the City Council and the Board of Commissioners have collectively determined that if the state desires to pursue surplus and sale of right-of-way, we would recommend that consideration only be given to that portion of the right-of-way that is

located east of a line 100 feet east of the centerline of the trail. The City and County recommend that all lands between the Columbia River and the line 100 feet east of the trail centerline be retained by WSDOT pending further study in that area. This proposal would provide guidance for a surplus process that would not jeopardize the sustainability of the Apple Capital Loop Trail as a non-motorized transportation facility.

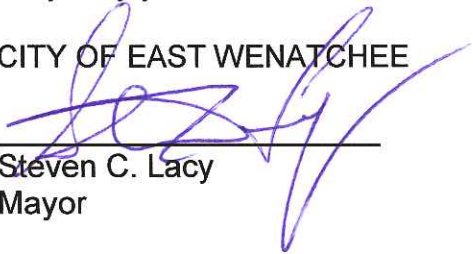
Moreover, to provide an opportunity for enhanced public access to the corridor and connectivity between motorized and non-motorized routes, we would like to ensure that additional consideration be given to retaining all WSDOT right-of-way where it intersects with adjacent local streets or right-of-way.

The City and County continue to seek opportunities to fund a more specific corridor planning effort for the area proposed to remain in WSDOT ownership. We envision building on the WSDOT record of decision for the SR 28/Sunset Highway corridor to examine improving east-west connections between the non-motorized corridor along the river and Sunset Highway. This will ensure adequate future connections to planned commercial and residential areas.

The City Council and Board of Commissioners appreciate your efforts in this process.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE



Steven C. Lacy
Mayor

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