

News from the New Interim County Administrator

Hello to you! I understand that Frank Gifford introduced me in last month's newsletter. It's great to be here in Jefferson County and living in the midst of the Kala Point neighborhood. There's a lot going on at the County right now, as you can imagine, but two items stand out that may especially pertain to you.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Public Works is currently updating its Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the 2009-2014 period. State law requires every county to adopt a comprehensive transportation program each year for the ensuing six years, which includes all anticipated expenditures for road and bridge construction, path and trail projects, and capital outlays. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will conduct a public hearing in their chambers on July 14th at 10 am on this plan prior to its adoption.

Potential projects are selected using a variety of components which are periodically updated to reflect current trends, priorities, and revenues. Most projects require substantial amounts of grant or "outside" revenue to occur since available local funds are limited. Within the last year, funds for transportation in Jefferson County have been substantially cut through the loss of a federal timber subsidy program, and the buying power of remaining funds has been seriously impacted by skyrocketing fuel and steel costs. Given these realities, the number of projects is expected to be small and some of those will drop off if grant funds cannot be obtained. Nevertheless, Public Works welcomes all suggestions and ideas for consideration in future transportation planning efforts. Anyone interested in this process should contact Public Works at 385-9160.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

The Department of Community Development (DCD) and consultant team ESA Adolfson have been hard at work since the start of 2008 revising draft shoreline policies, regulations and environmental designation maps to reflect committee input and staff review. In 2007, two advisory committees, one technical and one policy-driven, met regularly to assess shoreline features and assist staff and the consultant in drafting an updated SMP.

A revised *Committee Working Draft Shoreline Master Program* was released back to the committees and to the public in May. Supplemental technical documents including the *Final Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report* and the *Shoreline Restoration Plan*, also undergoing revision, are anticipated to be released in mid-June. Final committee feedback and informal public comment will be accepted until July 11, 2008, on these three documents.

Public meetings will be planned for June and into July to inform shoreline property owners and other interested parties about existing shoreline conditions, State guidelines and buffers, development standards and the permit process changes proposed in the updated SMP.

By September, a *Preliminary Draft SMP* will be submitted to the County Planning Commission to begin the formal public review process. It's anticipated that the Planning Commission will provide recommendations to the BOCC by mid-February 2009. Once they take action to locally approve the document, it's submitted to the Washington Department of Ecology and is due to them by June 30, 2009.

For more information, contact Michelle McConnell in DCD at 379.4484, via e-mail at mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us or visit the County's Web site on the SMP Update at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm.