

For Immediate Release — May 6, 2005

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**City and County to Collaborate on “Creating Walkable Communities”
with Slated Workshops**

Port Townsend, WA—“Creating Walkable Communities” is a series of workshops facilitated by Dan Burden, a consultant from Walkable Communities, Inc. that will be offered in Port Townsend on May 12 and 13 and in Port Hadlock on May 14. Public input is sought for ideas about how Upper Sims Way should develop, as well as making improvements to the crossroads intersection in Port Hadlock.

“Dan Burden is an effective and inspirational moderator, offering a variety of solutions to traffic congestion areas that increase car, pedestrian and bicycle safety,” said Linda Pfafman, Jefferson County Sheriff's Traffic Safety Task Force Coordinator. “He offers a sense of place and ideas for putting the life back into industrialized areas, along with rejuvenating an urbanized landscape. He has found that safe and visually attractive traffic and pedestrian travel increases the value of the adjoining properties.”

Grant money was provided by the Washington Traffic Commission to solicit community involvement through brainstorming sessions and citizen-driven workshops in which local residents can help with a hands-on approach for design solutions to neighborhood traffic problems. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is spear-heading the effort with collaboration from Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend.

On Thursday, May 12, from 3-4 p.m., there will be a site visit on Upper Sims Way and Howard Street. Plans call for a street light at that intersection, but the possibility of a “roundabout” is also being considered. The City of Port Townsend is considering extending Howard Street to Hastings Avenue. From 4-6 p.m. there will be a slide presentation by Dan Burden at the Port Townsend Community Center on Tyler and Lawrence Streets. From 6-8 p.m. there will be small group sessions with a wrap-up from 8-9 p.m. It's recommended that participants bring their own bag dinner. Beverages will be provided.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a session in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Jefferson County Courthouse on Friday, May 13 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The presentation by Burden will present ideas for the crossroads intersection in Port Hadlock.

On Saturday, May 14, from noon to 4 p.m. the topic of the main intersection in Port Hadlock will be discussed at the Jefferson County Library in Port Hadlock. Dan Burden will give a slide presentation from 1-3 p.m. that will be followed by group discussions from 3-4 p.m. Information on the Upper Sims Way project will also be available.

Dan Burden is a nationally recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs, street corridor and intersection design, traffic flow and calming, and other design and planning elements that affect roadway environments. He has had 25 years of experience in developing, promoting and evaluating alternative transportation facilities, traffic calming practices and sustainable community design. He served for 16 years as Florida DOT's State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, and he presently works as Executive Director of Walkable Communities, Inc., a non-profit corporation helping North America develop walkable communities. More information is available at his Web site: www.walkable.org.

For more information about the "Creating Walkable Communities" events, please contact Linda Pfafman at 385.3831, ext. 521 or via e-mail at lpfafman@co.jefferson.wa.us. All events are free to the public.

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