

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Frank Gifford, Public Works Director

Agenda Date: September 6, 2011

Subject: Thank you letter to Congressman Norm Dicks:
Upper Hoh Road Milepost 3.3 Bridge Project

Statement of Issue:

Jefferson County has been awarded Federal funding through the Public Lands Highways Discretionary (PLHD) Program. The repair involves designing and installing a bridge at Upper Hoh Road milepost 3.338. The repairs at Upper Hoh Road milepost are necessary to keep the road open for resident, business and Olympic National Park visitor use. Congressman Norm Dicks supported the application throughout the process. A letter of gratitude is proposed.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pros & Cons:

Congressman Dicks has supported the County's efforts to bring more Federal attention and resources to the Upper Hoh Road. He supported the development of a multi-party memorandum of understanding concerning future management of the Upper Hoh Road, as well as this specific PLHD grant application for repairs at milepost 3.338.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

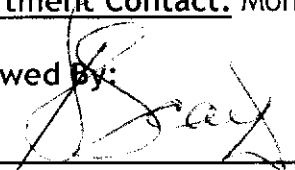
The estimated total cost of this project is \$3,425,442, which is provided at 100% Federal funding through the PLHD Program.

Recommendation:

Sign the attached thank you letter and send to Congressman Dicks. Provide a signed copy to Public Works for the Upper Hoh Road file.

Department Contact: Monte Reinders, P.E., County Engineer; 385-9242

Reviewed By:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

EC

8/31/11



**1820 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368**

Phil Johnson, District 1 David W. Sullivan, District 2 John Austin, District 3

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Norm Dicks
United States House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dicks:

On behalf of Jefferson County, we extend our deepest gratitude for your support of our application to fund repair work on the Upper Hoh Road. As you know, the Upper Hoh Road is important to not only the Jefferson County residents who live on the road but also the many annual visitors to Olympic National Park and the local businesses that rely on tourism.

The \$3.425 million grant award also enables us to improve fish passage and protection for the benefit of the environment and the economy. In addition, the project will enable employment in the construction sector at a time when local unemployment is at an all-time high.

Without grant funding, Jefferson County could not afford to do these desperately needed repairs and would risk closure of the Upper Hoh Road from a future storm event, resulting in an adverse effect on the economy.

Thank you again for your generous support in helping Jefferson County secure a Public Lands Highway Discretionary program grant. Your support is critical to helping us to preserve access to an internationally renowned destination, stimulate the local economy, and protect vital natural resources. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chairman

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member