

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Frank Gifford, Public Works Director *FG*

Agenda Date: October 15, 2012

Subject: Thank you letter to Senator Patty Murray:
Upper Hoh Road Engineering Assessment funding

Statement of Issue:

Jefferson County has been awarded Federal funding through the Public Lands Highways Discretionary (PLHD) Program. The project is an Engineering Assessment of the entire Upper Hoh Road from US 101 to the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center. It will be managed by the Western Federal Lands (WFL) Highways Division of the Federal Highway Administration. The Assessment will identify and prioritize road management issues that need to be resolved in order to keep the road open for resident, business and Olympic National Park visitor use. Senator Patty Murray supported the application throughout the process. A letter of gratitude is proposed.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pros & Cons:

Senator Murray supports the County's efforts to bring more Federal attention and resources to the Upper Hoh Road. She supported this PLHD grant application an Upper Hoh Road Engineering Assessment. Jefferson County may request her support in the future to access funding for capital improvement projects on the Upper Hoh Road, as identified in the Engineering Assessment.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:


The cost of this project is \$225,000. The PLHD grant is for \$200,000. WFL is providing the other \$25,000 and will be managing the project, including all Federal funding.

Recommendation:

Sign the attached thank you letter, keep a copy for your file, and return the signed original to Public Works for further processing.

Department Contact: Josh D. Peters, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, 385-9167.

Reviewed By:


Philip Morley, County Administrator



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

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

October 15, 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of Jefferson County, we extend our deepest gratitude for your support of our application to fund an Engineering Assessment of the Upper Hoh Road from the beginning at US Highway 101 to the end at the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center. 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.

Thank you for your generous support in helping us secure a \$200,000 Public Lands Highway Discretionary program grant. The Engineering Assessment will provide the Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners with the information needed to make strategic decisions about how best to maintain access to the Hoh Rain Forest. Your support is critical to the goal of preserving access to an internationally renowned destination, stimulating the local economy, and protecting vital natural resources.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of Jefferson County and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

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