


Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, P.E. 
Public Works Director/County Engineer

Agenda Date: February 18, 2014

Subject: Request for State Match - Upper Hoh Road
Federal Lands Access Program Grant

Statement of Issue: Request for state grant match for the Federal Lands Access Program grant for the Upper Hoh Road.

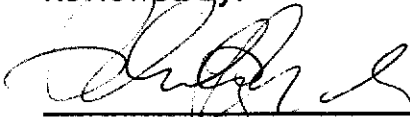
Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's: In 2013 Jefferson County was awarded \$11,300,000 through the Federal Lands Access Program to address infrastructure issues on the Upper Hoh Road. The Western Federal Lands division of Federal Highways will administer the projects, which were identified through an earlier Engineering Assessment completed by them. The federal grant requires a 13.5% match. The County is requesting in the letters attached for signature that the State provide half of the match (\$762,750). The other half will be provided by the National Park Service.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis: There is no impact to the County budget associated with this request.

Recommendation: Please sign the attached request letters to Representative Van De Wege, Representative Tharinger, and Senator Hargrove and return them to Public Works. Public Works will mail them.

Department Contact: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director 385-9242

Reviewed By:



Philip Morley, County Administrator

2/13/14

Date



1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

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

February 18, 2014

Representative Steve Tharinger
368 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Tharinger:

For many decades Jefferson County has worked diligently to maintain the Upper Hoh Road which serves as the main western entrance into Olympic National Park and the only access to the Hoh Rain Forest. From 200,000 to 300,000 visitors per year enter the Park through this scenic route along the Upper Hoh River. Unfortunately, the road has washed out numerous times over the years due to severe winter storms causing an extreme burden on the County road budget.

Last year we received the good news that Jefferson County had been chosen for an \$11,300,000 federal budget authorization for the improvements along the Upper Hoh Road under the Washington Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The approved project scope includes improving several of the most significant infrastructure problems identified in the Upper Hoh Road Engineering Assessment recently completed by the Western Federal Lands division of FHWA. The authorization requires a 13.5% local match.

This approval was made after multiple parties came together as the "Upper Hoh Road Interagency Working Group" to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2011 that recognizes the challenges of managing the Upper Hoh Road and lists goals and objectives for bringing additional resources to the problem. The MOU partners include Olympic National Park, FHWA, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Jefferson County. The parties have agreed that the management challenges of Upper Hoh Road require interagency coordination in order to provide continued access to the Hoh Rain Forest, protect Hoh River resources, foster cooperative relationships, and to share technical expertise.

As great as the news of this authorization is, even the local match creates a significant burden on Jefferson County.

In order to fully utilize the \$11,300,000 grant, we are asking that the legislature appropriate \$762,750.00 to serve as a state investment in the local match. This would represent one half of the local grant match obligation for this project. As a party to the MOU, the State of Washington has been of great assistance in getting us this far. An appropriation for the local match would allow us to move forward with these projects with confidence.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to a successful project. Working together we can keep this road open to the hundreds of thousands of people who visit our community each year.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Jefferson County Public Works Director, Monte Reinders at (360) 385-9242.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chairman
Phone (360) 385-9100

Phil Johnson, Member
Fax (360) 385-9382

David Sullivan, Member
jeffbocc@co.jefferson.wa.us



**1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368**

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

February 18, 2014

Representative Kevin Van De Wege
434A Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Van De Wege:

For many decades Jefferson County has worked diligently to maintain the Upper Hoh Road which serves as the main western entrance into Olympic National Park and the only access to the Hoh Rain Forest. From 200,000 to 300,000 visitors per year enter the Park through this scenic route along the Upper Hoh River. Unfortunately, the road has washed out numerous times over the years due to severe winter storms causing an extreme burden on the County road budget.

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John Austin, Chairman

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

Phone (360) 385-9100

Fax (360) 385-9382

jeffbocc@co.jefferson.wa.us



**1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368**

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

February 18, 2014

Senator Jim Hargrove
411 Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504-0424

Dear Senator Hargrove:

For many decades Jefferson County has worked diligently to maintain the Upper Hoh Road which serves as the main western entrance into Olympic National Park and the only access to the Hoh Rain Forest. From 200,000 to 300,000 visitors per year enter the Park through this scenic route along the Upper Hoh River. Unfortunately, the road has washed out numerous times over the years due to severe winter storms causing an extreme burden on the County road budget.

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