

## **SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

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ITEM NO: P-2  
DATE: January 14, 2010  
SUBJECT: Sultan Basin Road and US 2 Realignment Update  
CONTACT PERSON: Deborah Knight, City Administrator

### **ISSUE:**

The issue before the city council is to receive an update on Phase III of the Sultan Basin Road and US 2 Realignment project from WHPacific.

WHPacific is the engineering firm contracted by the city to complete Phase III project design, environmental review and property acquisition work and prepare the engineering bid documents for project construction.

The city council received an update from WHPacific in May 2009 and October 2009. In October 2009, the project estimate was approximately \$2.8 million. During the October meeting, the city council discussed adding bike lanes and sidewalks to both sides of the project and directed the consultant to proceed with design work.

Since October 2009, WHPacific has provided project costs estimates of between \$3.7 million and \$4.7 million. The current estimate is \$4.296 million.

The estimated project cost is based on the scope of work (i.e. adding sidewalks and bike lanes increases the cost), the cost of raw materials, and the current economic climate. The city has little or no control over some of these cost drivers.

This is an opportunity for the city council to review the project, discuss alternatives with Sam Richard, the principal project engineer and direct staff to areas of concern.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Hear the presentation by WHPacific, ask questions and direct staff to areas of concern. If the city council wants to explore alternatives, city staff would work with WHPacific to provide additional information at the January 28, 2010 meeting.

Preparing alternatives is not a part of the current scope of work with WHPacific. The city council will need to amend its contract with WHPacific to cover this additional work.

### **SUMMARY:**

## Project Description

The city has started the third and final phase of the Sultan Basin Road and US 2 realignment project. Improvements will consist of adding the south leg of Sultan Basin Road connecting Foundry Drive (now South Sultan Basin Road) and Cascade View Drive with US 2. There will be additional traffic control signals, lighting, and left turn lanes on US 2.

Because of the topography, the project requires considerable grading and fill and a significant retaining wall between US 2 and Cascade View Drive. WHPacific is ready to begin negotiations with adjacent property owners to purchase land needed to accommodate the retaining wall.

The project includes curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the south leg between US 2 and the Burlington Northern railroad tracks. The sidewalks and bike lanes will connect the industrial park, residential neighborhood, park and ride lot and downtown commercial area.

Cascade View Drive at Foundry Dr



Proposed Improvement



## Current Activity

WHPacific completed the following tasks during the last billing period ending December 22, 2009:

- 90% of plans and cost estimate.
- Prepared, finalized and submitted environmental letter of “no effect” to WSDOT. No effects letter approved by WSDOT.
- Prepared, finalized and submitted the Draft Critical Areas report to Sultan and US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Revised wall layout to reduce construction costs. Update the wall plans, site plans and traffic plans.
- Prepared for right-of-way acquisitions.

- Coordinated with WSDOT local programs on federal environmental report (NEPA) and noise study requirements.

### Next Steps

Right of way acquisition will start after NEPA is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and funding has been obligated.

The noise study will be submitted to WSDOT in January/February 2010. Right of way acquisition will begin in February/March 2010.

Submittal of the channelization and signal plans to WSDOT are on hold until the city decides if the project is going to move forward as is or with a revised sidewalk/roadway section.

### Project Benefits

The project provides a long-term solution to remedy existing problems with limited street widths and lack of controlled intersection access to US 2. Currently, all left turns on to US 2 from the industrial park are routed to an uncontrolled, substandard access 1/3 mile to the east on Cascade View Drive. The access point enters US 2 approaching the 50-mile per hour section of the highway. Improvements to the intersection will provide additional safety for vehicles entering and leaving the highway.

The Sultan Basin Road and US 2 Realignment will directly affect the economic development opportunities of the industrial park serving the ROMAC foundry by providing improved access for large delivery trucks. The project provides street and road improvements serving 40 residences in the Skywall subdivision and the undeveloped Ramirez plat south of the Burlington Northern Rail Road tracks. Additional residential development is not expected due to the floodplain designation of the residential area.

### Project Funding

The project has \$2.2 million in secured funding and a \$297,506 local match requirement for a total of \$2,501,260. The city will need between \$1.22 million and \$1.79 million to complete construction.

In September 2009, the city was awarded \$876,150 in construction funds (included in the \$2.2 million of secured funding). In order to receive the funds, the city agreed to break the project into two stages and use the \$876,150 to construct improvements on the "south half" from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks to Cascade View Drive. The city is seeking funds to construct Stage 2 ("north half") including the fill and retaining wall between Cascade View Drive and US 2.

**Cost Estimates for Sultan Basin Road Phase III**

	<b>Council Presentation Oct. 2009</b>	<b>Updated Jan. 2010</b>	<b>No Sidewalk East Side</b>	<b>No Sidewalks/ Bike Lanes South of Cascade View Dr.</b>	<b>Build North Half *</b>	<b>Build South Half</b>
Design/Environmenta l	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
R/W Acquisition	\$ 560,000	\$ 478,000	\$ 478,000	\$ 478,000	\$ 478,000	\$ -
Construction	\$ 1,880,000	\$ 3,318,000	\$ 2,900,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 1,523,000	\$ 1,767,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,840,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,296,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,878,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,728,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,251,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,017,000</b>
Secured Federal Funding	\$ (1,327,604)	\$ (2,203,754)	\$ (2,203,754)	\$ (2,203,754)	\$ (2,203,754)	\$ (2,203,754)
City Match	\$ (179,226)	\$ (297,506)	\$ (297,506)	\$ (297,506)	\$ (297,506)	\$ (297,506)
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ 1,333,170</b>	<b>\$ 1,794,740</b>	<b>\$ 1,376,740</b>	<b>\$ 1,226,740</b>	<b>\$ (250,260)</b>	<b>\$ (484,260)</b>

\* north half cannot be built without south half being constructed

**DISCUSSION:**

Since 2009, the total estimated cost to complete the project has increased from \$2.8 million to \$4.296 million a 51% increase. Cost drivers include fill material and the retaining wall between Cascade View and SR 2; sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the road from US 2 to the rail road tracks; and required environmental reviews.

The city council may want consider the pros and cons of continuing the project or stopping the project and seeking a more cost effective alternative to connect the area to US 2.

One alternative would be to request approval from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to add a signal at the intersection of US 2 and Cascade View Drive. In early discussions with WSDOT, senior staff expressed concerns about locating traffic signals at Rice Road, Sultan Basin Road, and Fifth Street. WSDOT standards for state highways discourage traffic signals which slow traffic especially during peak hours.

WSDOT may be supportive of roundabouts at Cascade View and Rice Road. Rice Road would be a better fit for a roundabout because of the availability of land to accommodate two lanes of traffic. WSDOT considered roundabouts the preferred alternative for intersections in Sultan in order to keep traffic moving

Signalizing the east entrance of Cascade View Drive and US 2 was considered by city staff and consultants during initial discussions of the southern extension of Sultan Basin

Road. A signal at Cascade View Drive and US 2 was initially rejected because of the constraints of the Fire District property on the west and county property on the east. However, this may be a viable alternative given the cost increases of the Sultan Basin Road and US 2 Realignment.

The other difficulty is funding. If the council stops the project, city staff are not certain the state and federal grant funds could be reallocated to another project. If the council decides to stop the project, the city could lose \$1.5 million in state and federal grants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Hear the presentation by WHPacific, ask questions and direct staff to areas of concern. If the city council wants to explore alternatives, city staff would work with WHPacific to provide additional information at the January 28, 2010 meeting.

ATTACHMENT

A – Notice to property owners

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COUNCIL ACTION:

DATE:



# Sultan Basin Road & US 2 Realignment

## What's Happening with Sultan Basin Road?

The City has been working to finish the design and engineering drawings for the Sultan Basin Road & US 2 Realignment project. Recent activities include:

- Negotiating to acquire property to construct the project
- Completing environmental reviews (required by state/federal law)
- Conducting a noise analysis (required by state law)

Since May 2009, the total estimated cost to complete the project has increased from \$2.7 million to \$4.7 million a 74% increase. Cost drivers include fill material and the retaining wall between Cascade View and SR 2; sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the road from US 2 to the rail road tracks; and required environmental reviews.

**On January 14, 2010, the city council will hear a presentation on the current status of the Sultan Basin Road**

The city council will consider the pros and cons of continuing the project or stopping the project and seeking more cost effective alternatives to connect the area to US 2.

One alternative would be to request approval from the Washington State Department of Transportation to add a signal at the intersection of US 2 and Cascade View Drive.

If the council decides to stop the project, the city could lose \$1.5 million in state and federal grants.

I encourage you to attend the January 14, 2010 council meeting to share your thoughts and learn more.

*Mayor Carolyn Eslick*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Presentation and Project Update**

**Thursday, January 14, 2010**  
**7:00PM**

**Sultan Community Center**  
**319 Main Street, Sultan**

Intersection Cascade View Dr. today



Planned extension of Sultan Basin Road to Cascade View Dr.



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