Woodland Area Transportation Study Moving Forward

Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOCG) has begun work on the Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan. The strategic plan will prioritize improvements and identify funding sources for transportation projects to be built in the next 20-30 years. The strategic plan will recommend solutions to the transportation congestion and safety concerns now experienced at the two Woodland I-5 interchanges, frontage roads along the freeway and at-grade railway crossings accessing the port/industrial property (see map on reverse).

Who’s Involved?
The CWCOCG, City of Woodland, Port of Woodland, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Cowlitz County have formed a project team to carry out the strategic plan. The CWCOCG has also hired Parametrix, an engineering and planning company, to assist with the study.

What’s happening right now?
Parametrix is conducting interviews with a broad range of community members, to obtain initial feedback on the most pressing transportation issues facing Woodland and how they should be incorporated into the strategic plan. Parametrix has also formed a local Citizens Advisory Committee, with stakeholders representing a wide-range of local interests. The Citizens Advisory Committee will meet periodically during development of the strategic plan, to provide advice on how best to meet local transportation needs.

How You can Get Involved
Three public meetings will be held at key milestones in the study. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- August 16, 2007
- January 2008
- May 2008

Those who live and work in Woodland are encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the study and provide input. Additional information on the strategic plan will be mailed to area residents and businesses over the life of the project, including locations and topics for each public meeting.

SR 503 Limited Route Development Plan
A separate study of SR 503 from North Goerig Street to McCracken Road is also underway. This study will be prepared by the project team, at the same time as the strategic plan, and will be used by the City of Woodland to prioritize SR 503 intersection and roadway improvements. The city has nearly $1 million secured for design and construction of these prioritized SR 503 improvements, which will be constructed in the near future.

For More Information
For information on the strategic plan or the SR 503 study, contact Jerry Sorrell, Assistant Project Manager, at 360-577-3041, or email Jerry at jsorrell@cwcocg.org. Jerry can answer questions, share public input with the project team and Citizens Advisory Committee, and is available for presentations to community groups.
Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Select Study Objectives

Evaluate Dike Road Interchange
Assess Scott Avenue / I-5 Bridge to Connect Community
Examine Future Industrial Arterial
Evaluate SR 503/I-5 Interchange
Prepare Route Development Plan

TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public
COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.

Website: http://www.cwcog.org/  E-mail: cwcog@cwcog.org
The Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan will include a prioritized set of transportation improvements that address growing freeway and local traffic congestion; increased east/west connections; and safer access to industrial, commercial, and residential areas of the City, particularly along SR 503. Significant community involvement will help identify the transportation projects needed over the next 20 years that will be included in the strategic plan.

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Community Open House & Workshop
Thursday, August 16, 2007
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Presentation
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Workshop
Woodland High School, Commons Room
757 Park Street
Woodland, Washington

Open House Set for Strategic Plan
The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is hosting an open house and workshop on August the 16th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Woodland High School Commons room. This is the first of at least three events designed to obtain public input that will be used to help develop the Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

“Woodland is facing very significant transportation problems that won’t be easy to fix,” said Jerry Sorrell, Assistant Project Manager for the CWCOG. “It is critical that we receive input from the whole community, so that when the strategic plan is done, we can work together to make sure the projects are built.”

The primary purpose of this open house and workshop is for community members to share their knowledge and ideas regarding existing transportation problems with project staff. The information gained at this public event will be used to help develop potential transportation improvement options that will be discussed with the community at a January 2008 open house. The January 2008 open house is part of the “analyze options” phase of the project that concludes in March 2008 (see project timeline, on reverse).
What’s happened so far?
As a part of the “identify problems” phase of the project (see project timeline, lower right), Parametrix, a consulting firm working on the project, initiated a variety of efforts:
- Interviewed a broad range of community members to better understand the community’s vision of long term transportation needs
- Examined the existing transportation, land use, and environmental issues and constraints that will affect the strategic plan
- Formed a local Citizens Advisory Committee, with stakeholders representing a wide-range of local interests

What have we learned?
Based on work so far, much has been learned about existing conditions in Woodland, including but not limited to:

CONGESTION: Significant traffic congestion occurs at the I-5 interchanges at both SR 503 and Dike Access Road. Most other Woodland intersections operate at an acceptable service level today, with the exception of SR 503 at N Goerig Street, SR 503 at E Scott Avenue, and Buckeye Street at Goerig Street.

SAFETY: Accidents are particularly a problem along sections of SR 503 and at the intersections of the state highway with Insel Road.

CONNECTIVITY: Connections between the east and west areas of the City should be improved to enhance traffic flow and safety and provide alternatives to traveling through freeway interchange areas.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS: Existing at-grade crossings of the BNSF railroad impact several streets on the west side of Woodland, in particular, Davidson Avenue and W Scott Avenue.

TRUCK TRAFFIC: In the northwestern portion of the City, trucks comprise more than 20 percent of existing traffic, with significant truck traffic also present in the southwestern portion of the City and representing as much as 5 percent of the traffic along SR 503. This level of truck traffic can have a major effect on traffic movement and on the development of transportation improvement recommendations.

PEDESTRIANS and BICYCLISTS: Limited availability of sidewalks and bicycle lanes prevent safe walking and bicycling between residential areas of the City and shopping, schools, and recreation areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Wetlands and flood plains exist throughout Woodland, including along SR 503 and near the I-5 interchanges. The City also includes numerous hazardous materials sites.

More information on what Parametrix has learned so far will be shared with the public at the August 16th open house and workshop.

For More Information
For information on the strategic plan, or if you require special accommodations for the open house, contact Jerry Sorrell, Assistant Project Manager. Jerry can be reached at 360-577-3041 or by email at jsorrell@cwcog.org. Jerry can answer questions, share public input with the project team and Citizens Advisory Committee, and is available for presentations to community groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopt Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify Problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public
COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.

• Website: http://www.cwcog.org/
• E-mail: cwcog@cwcog.org
The Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan will include a prioritized set of transportation improvements that address growing freeway and local traffic congestion; better east/west connections; and safer access to industrial, commercial, and residential areas of the City, particularly along SR 503. Significant community involvement is helping identify the transportation projects needed over the next 20 years that will be included in the Strategic Plan.

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Community Open House & Workshop
On Preliminary Improvement Options
Thursday, January 24, 2008
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm: Presentation
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm: Workshop
Woodland High School, Commons Room
757 Park Street, Woodland

Transportation Study Moves Forward
The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is hosting an open house and workshop on January the 24th, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, at the Woodland High School Commons room. This is the second of three events designed to obtain public input that will be used to help develop the Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

At the first open house in August 2007, community members shared their ideas regarding transportation problems with engineers and planners working on the Strategic Plan. Project staff took this public input and developed several preliminary options and alternatives for improving transportation in Woodland. These will be discussed in detail at the January 2008 open house.

The biggest difference between the transportation alternatives under discussion is how they accomplish three specific goals:

- Modifications to the existing I-5 interchanges and on SR 503 to improve safety and ease congestion
- Creation of a new north/south roadway to serve the Port of Woodland and potential future west side residential development (possibly located inside area “A” in the map on the reverse page)
- Development of a new I-5 crossing to better connect east and west Woodland (possibly located inside area “B” in the map on the reverse page)

Public feedback on these alternatives will help identify which transportation projects to study in greater detail. Staff will share a list of recommended choices with the public in May 2008.

“We need the community to tell us which transportation alternatives they will support,” said Jerry Sorrell, Assistant Project Manager for the CWCOG, “because the entire community will need to work together to see them become reality.”

For More Information
For project information, or if you require special accommodations for the open house, contact Jerry Sorrell at 360-577-3041 or jsorrell@cwco.org.
Major Transportation Improvement Choices

W O O D L A N D

A 3 North/South Road Options
B 3 East/West Crossing Options
C Intersection Improvement
D Intersection Improvement
A Crossing Improvement
B Crossing Improvement
C Intersection Improvement
D Crossing Improvement

Project Timeline
- Adopt Plan: AUGUST 2008
- Develop Funding Strategy: MAY 2008
- Identify Projects: JUNE 2008
- Analyze Options: JULY 2008
- Determine Future Needs: AUGUST 2008
- Identify Problems: SEPTEMBER 2008

TITLES VI and ADA Notice to the Public
COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.

Website: http://www.cwcog.org/  E-mail: cwcog@cwcog.org
The Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan will include a prioritized set of transportation improvements that address growing freeway and local traffic congestion; better east/west connections; and safer access to industrial, commercial, and residential areas of the City, particularly along SR 503. Significant community involvement is helping identify the transportation projects needed over the next 20 years that will be included in the Strategic Plan.

## Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
### Final Project Open House
Tuesday, July 1, 2008
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Woodland High School, Commons Room
757 Park Street, Woodland

## Study Wrapping Up – Tell Us What You Think!
The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is hosting an open house on Tuesday, July 1, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Woodland High School Commons Room. At this event, project staff will provide detailed descriptions of significant transportation projects (see map on reverse) and ask the community which they would prioritize for Woodland’s future.

“**We need the community to join us at the open house and let us know if they can support these transportation improvements.”**
Jerry Sorrell
Assistant Project Manager

“**These projects can ease traffic headaches facing Woodland and ensure safe travel for drivers, walkers and bicyclists,”** said Jerry Sorrell, Assistant Project Manager, “But they won’t become a reality without the community’s support. We need the community to join us at the open house and let us know if they can support these transportation improvements.”

## Project History
This is the last of three events designed to obtain public input that will be used to help develop the Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

At the first open house in August 2007, community members shared their ideas regarding transportation problems with engineers and planners working on the Strategic Plan Project. Staff took this public input and developed a wide range of alternatives for improving transportation in Woodland. At the second open house in January 2008, staff shared these alternatives with the community, to determine which ones were worthy of detailed study.

Based on public feedback and detailed technical work, staff has developed a short list of transportation improvements, and needs the community to help choose between them. The July 1st open house is the opportunity for the public to voice their priorities.

## For More Information
For project information, or if you require special accommodations for the open house, contact Jerry Sorrell at 360-577-3041 or jsorrell@cwcog.org.
Significant Transportation Projects

**TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public**
COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.

Website: http://www.cwcog.org/  
E-mail: cwcog@cwcog.org
Woodland
Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan

Jurisdictional Briefing
August 16, 2007

Agenda
- Introduction of Team
- Why are We Doing this Study?
- What will the Study Address?
- What have We Done to Date?
- What have We Found?
- Project Vision
- Tonight’s Public Meeting
- Next Steps
**Introductions**

- Jerry Sorrell – COG Project Manager
- Rosemary Siipola – COG Staff
- Anne Sylvester – Consultant Project Manager
- Michael Harrison, Christine Sylvester – Consultant Team

---

**Project Team**

- Technical Team
  - City of Woodland
  - Port of Woodland
  - Cowlitz County
  - Washington State Department of Transportation
  - Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

- Citizens Advisory Committee
Why Are We Doing This Study?

• Woodland is growing:
  – 1990 to 2004
    • 65% increase in population
    • 32% increase in employment
  – Traffic congestion is growing 2-4% / year
  – Growth expected to continue as development and jobs move north from Clark County

• Challenge is to retain the small town feel of Woodland while addressing problems of growth

---

Why Are We Doing This Study?

• There are also financial challenges
• Available funds are very competitive
• A community needs a plan and a strategy with priorities to be successful
• Limited funding is available for a short-term improvement on SR 503 – what should be done?
• Other project improvements will take longer, overall plan is a 20-year vision

---
What will this Study Address?

- Build on the foundation of the City’s 2005 Transportation Plan by fleshing out recommended improvements for:
  - I-5 interchanges (including flooding)
  - SR 503 safety problems
  - Possible extension of Schurman Way south to Goerig Street (new jobs and housing)
  - Added east/west connection(s) of I-5 and local street connections
  - Railroad crossings

Steps in the Process?

- Identify Problems / Define Vision
- Determine Future Needs
- Analyze Options
- Identify Projects
- Develop Funding Strategy
- Adopt Plan (August 2008)
- Begin to Assemble Funding
- Design, Permit and Build Projects
What have We Done to Date?

- Conducted technical evaluation of existing roadway system (congestion levels, safety, design)
- Interviewed stakeholders – define problems and discuss ideas
- Developed draft vision for the project and desired outcomes
- Identified financial baseline

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan

What have We Found?

- Growing delays in the I-5 / SR 503 interchange area
- Long delays at:
  - SR 503/Goerig
  - SR 503/E Scott
  - Buckeye/Goerig
- SR 503 east of I-5 is High Accident Corridor

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
What have We Found?

- Lack of east/west connections forces everyone through the I-5 interchanges
- High levels of truck traffic at many locations
- Railroad crossing delays
- Roadway design issues (sight distance, physical constraints, confusion)
- Lack of bicycle / pedestrian facilities

Stakeholder Interviews

- 16 interviews conducted in June
- Purpose – identify community’s key transportation issues, concerns and opinions
- Findings/Common Themes:
  - Congestion is a problem, getting worse
  - I-5 interchanges are biggest problems
  - Lack of convenient connections (east/west, north/south and to downtown) and safety concerns
  - Lots of project ideas
- Developed a project vision statement
Project Vision

- The City of Woodland’s transportation system effectively and efficiently moves people and goods while reinforcing the City’s small town feel, with improved connections between Woodland’s residential neighborhoods, industrial areas, downtown, farms, parks, I-5 and recreational areas.

Desired Outcomes

- Results in a clear plan that:
  - Addresses needs,
  - Is supported by the community, and
  - Can be used by elected leadership to advocate for project priorities and secure funding
Desired Outcomes

- Provides a plan to manage traffic congestion
- Serves all forms of street travel
- Maximizes safety for all users
- Improves local street connections to reduce need to use I-5 Interchanges for local trips
- Accommodates growth
- Can be constructed in phases, is cost-effective and meets state and local requirements
- Provides for property access without degrading safety and capacity
- Enhances emergency vehicle access
- Improves links to recreational areas
- Addresses rail crossing and flooding issues

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan

Tonight’s Public Meeting

- Brief presentation
- Break into table groups to get input on:
  - Do the existing conditions / problems we’ve identified match what you see?
  - Do you agree with the vision statement and desired outcomes? Any changes?
  - How you currently use the transportation system
  - Problems you encounter
  - Any ideas about needed improvements?
- Comment form available
- Kids table and refreshments

Woodland Transportation Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Next Steps

- Beginning to develop forecasts of future traffic volumes and evaluating impacts related to growth
- Next will develop preliminary improvement options / alternatives for community discussion
- Then will zero in on recommendations and priorities with adoptions slated for August, 2008

Next Briefings / Public Meetings

- Next briefing & public meeting to be held in January 2008 to discuss development of improvement options
- Briefing & public meeting in May 2008 to discuss evaluation of improvement options, recommendations & priorities
- City Council work session in July 2008 prior to adoption