

# CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

February 19, 2010

This week we received notification on two grants and submitted appropriations requests for three additional grants. As you know, we were not approved for the TIGER grant for roadway improvements and only two projects in Washington State will receive this funding. In looking at all of the projects across the country, the funding was primarily directed to single road projects in metropolitan areas. However, approval of the \$360,000 air services grant for Kenmore Air will result in a major marketing program for Kenmore in the coming year. The primary goal from this grant is to increase air passengers in order to stabilize the presence of Kenmore in our community.

In addition, staff has spent a lot of time this week in developing the three appropriation requests for the projects previously discussed with the Council (see attached summary report). In terms of the Downtown Waterfront Development request, we have coordinated closely with the Port Authority on the ferry terminal improvements. We also received letters of support from both Clallam County and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. We plan on discussing these requests with our Congressional delegation when we meet with them in Washington D.C. next month.

The proposed economic development summit was discussed with the Economic Development Council (EDC) yesterday and they offered their full support. The EDC will be preparing their new strategic plan later this year and this summit will provide them with useful direction for their planning efforts.

Also, Councilmember Kidd and I attended a joint meeting between our Chamber and the Sequim Chamber of Commerce this week. It is great to see the spirit of cooperation between these two agencies as we work to partner on many events and activities planned during the coming year. Russ Veenema also announced two new events for later this year including a Ride-To-The-Ridge bicycling event and a geocaching Twilight event.

This week Mayor Di Giulio, Councilmember Collins, and I met with key officials from Black Ball Ferry to discuss ways we can increase ferry passenger traffic between Port Angeles and Victoria. We also discussed how we can work together to get the ferry terminal project funded this year.

Have a great weekend!

**- Kent Myers**

## City of Port Angeles – Federal Appropriations Requests – February 2010

### **Priority 1: Port Angeles Downtown Waterfront Development**

This project stems from a 1997 Downtown Revitalization Master Plan. The project aims to distinguish the City of Port Angeles' downtown waterfront as a focal point for the City's economic, cultural, and environmental assets. Concentrating on four blocks in the downtown, the project, in conjunction with the Port Angeles-Victoria ferry terminal upgrades, will facilitate truck, vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic along the downtown waterfront. A pedestrian promenade, bicycle trail, streetscape improvements, and park space to develop the City's waterfront as an attractive and safe international gateway that will provide access to the harbor, encourage tourism opportunities and revitalize the downtown retail core. This is a joint City of Port Angeles and Port of Port Angeles project.

### **Priority 2: Lauridsen Blvd. Bridge Replacement**

This project is to replace Lauridsen Boulevard Bridge Replacement, which is a functionally deficient structure. The bridge replacement will be a wider structure that will allow trucks, buses, and other large vehicles to use the bridge over Peabody Creek. Located immediately west of the Lauridsen Boulevard/Race Street intersection, the trucks cannot make turns off the bridge without going into the opposing traffic lanes. The planned crosstown truck route and alternate local crosstown route for truck and vehicle traffic passing through the Port Angeles urban area will allow the removal of truck traffic in the downtown. The 60 foot wide bridge will include sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

### **Priority 3: Olympic Discovery Trail West End PA**

The Olympic Discovery Trail is a "world class trail" that extends from Port Townsend in Jefferson County to the Pacific Ocean at La Push. Built on the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific right-of-way, this is truly a "rails to trails" project. The trail crosses many jurisdictions, classifications of ownership, and fulfills the interests of various user-groups and other special interest groups. This variety and diversity of interests requires cooperation and collaborative planning, design and maintenance of this unique and valuable trail system.

The trail sees service during all of the waking hours of the day. The trail connects with the Gateway Center, a new inter-modal transportation facility, numerous bus stops, the Blackball ferry terminal (Coho and high-speed ferry service to Victoria), and the William Fairchild. As such, the trail allows inter-connection to all of the tourist entry ports to the City.

Additional funding is required for trail paving, signage, and safety systems specified in the 2009, Dry Creek Bridge and Trail Planning Study prepared by the City of Port Angeles. Approximately 7,000 feet of railroad bed will need to be graded and paved between 4<sup>th</sup> and "N" Street to Lower Elwha Road. It will also include trailheads and parking lots. Once completed, the trail will provide a safe and satisfying experience for all who utilize the trail as either a local recreational amenity or as a world-class destination which showcases the spectacular North Olympic Peninsula. This grant application is for \$750,000.00 for the design and construction to complete the Olympic Discovery Trail west end.