



RIDGEFIELD INTERCHANGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Background

In 2005, the City of Ridgefield and Port of Ridgefield began efforts in securing funding to complete the design and construction of a new interchange at I-5 and SR 501 (Pioneer Street) to replace the existing interchange that was built in 1964 to serve a rural community. With the significant growth that had begun in Ridgefield, combined with a large volume of undeveloped land surrounding the interchange zoned for employment-based development (approximately 1,500 acres), City and Port officials identified the need to replace the existing interchange with a new interchange of capacity to serve the foreseeable future as the first hurdle in reaching their goal of becoming an employment hub for Southwest Washington. With money secured through the Washington State Legislature in 2005, the City of Ridgefield, working in partnership with the Washington State Department of Transportation, initiated design, environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition activities in January 2006.

Project Status

Based on construction estimates and funding levels, the Project was broken into two stages in 2008. Construction of Stage 1 (\$28 million), consisting of the new interchange, on- and off-ramps and widening of Pioneer Street between 56th Place and 65th Avenue, began in September 2009 and is nearing completion; Stage 2 (estimated at \$5.5 million), consisting of construction of roundabouts at 56th Place and 65th Avenue and realignment of 65th Avenue, is now considered fully funded and nearing design completion. Construction of Stage 2 is anticipated to begin in summer 2011 with completion by spring 2012.

Funding

Based on known costs for Stage 1 and construction estimates for Stage 2, the total project cost is estimated at \$33.5 million. The City has secured funding to fully complete the project through the following sources:

- \$10 million has been allocated through the Washington State 2005-2007 Transportation Partnership Funding Budget.
- \$2 million has been allocated as an economic development grant through the Washington State 2005-2007 Capital Budget.
- \$8 million was allocated through passage of the Federal SAFETEA-LU transportation package in 2005.
- \$3 million has been allocated in the Washington State 2007-2009 Capital Budget.
- \$0.5 million in of the City of Ridgefield's Traffic Impact Fees are committed towards the Interchange Replacement project.
- \$10 million has been allocated through passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Looking Forward

Completion of the new interchange is viewed as the first step in providing sufficient transportation capacity to encourage employment-based development in Ridgefield. With the interchange under construction, Nutrition Now identified the new interchange as a major factor in locating its facility and 185 jobs in Ridgefield. The City will continue to work with its partners in funding other important transportation projects necessary to create up to family wage jobs serving not just Ridgefield, but all of southwest Washington.