Transportation Issues, Challenges and Successes

Washington Transportation Commission

June 18, 2019
CITY OF POULSBO

- Poulsbo’s population is approximately 11,000
- We cover only about 4 square miles
- Our current growth rate is 3%
- Like it or not, we are a transportation hub on the peninsula
- We are at the intersection of the Peninsula’s main transportation corridors for commuting, commerce and recreation - SR305, SR307 and SR3
- We are a highly desirable place to live and recreate
- We are heavily impacted by the population and business growth in the Puget Sound region
TRANSPORTATION SUCCESSES

• The City’s Noll Road Corridor Improvements and SR305-Johnson Roundabout projects are moving forward – projects that began in 1992

• Project funding includes multiple State and Federal grant funding sources as well as local funds

• The SR305-Johnson Roundabout is included in the SR305 Corridor Improvements project and is funded in large part by Connecting Washington funding

• The 305 Corridor Improvements project is the result of a very successful partnership with the SR305 Coalition of agencies and municipalities
The City has a very successful partnership with WSDOT, Kitsap County, Kitsap Transit, The Suquamish Tribe and the other Kitsap municipalities for transportation improvement coordination and funding, including the SR305 Corridor Improvements.

The City has been successful so far at accommodating our GMA required growth while maintaining our small community character and feel.

The City has successfully implemented GMA Transportation Impact Fees to fund the improvements necessary to accommodate development growth in the City.

The City has been successful at leveraging those Transportation Impact Fees into State and Federal grants for the necessary improvement projects to accommodate our development growth.
TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES

• Accommodating GMA required growth within our City while maintaining our small town character and feel is a challenge.

• Accommodating regional traffic growth is a big challenge – both growth within Kitsap County and within the greater Puget Sound area.

• Maintaining an acceptable level of service on State highways through Poulsbo is rapidly becoming an issue.

• Our Public Transit options are limited, both local and connection to the greater Puget Sound region.

• Funding of local road maintenance is difficult.
SR305/SR307/BOND ROAD INTERSECTION CHALLENGES

- This highway intersection is at capacity now
  - 40,000 ADT on SR305
  - 24,000 ADT on SR307
- Intersection has Level of Service issues now as a result
- Intersection has the highest accident rate in the SR305 corridor
- There are disproportionate impacts of regional pass-through traffic at this intersection
- There are no current projects planned for improvement to intersection
LOCAL ROAD MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

• Funding for local road maintenance is limited and difficult
• Approximately 55 miles of roads to maintain
• 75% of roads are local non-classified roads
• Grant funding is not an option for non-classified local roads
• Transportation Impact Fees cannot be used for maintenance activities
Funding and accomplishing transportation improvement projects that accommodate and encourage nonmotorized transportation alternatives can be difficult.

Funding and accomplishing ADA improvements that are not incorporated into other larger transportation improvement projects can also be difficult.

However, the City has been quite successful at achieving Safe Routes to School funding and accomplishing projects that have provided safe walking and bicycling routes to our schools.
TRANSPORTATION POLICY NEEDS

• We need policy decisions that help us accommodate the rapidly growing traffic from the greater Puget Sound Region, especially on highways passing through Poulsbo and connecting to the Puget Sound Region.

• We need policy decisions supporting current and future transit and other multimodal needs.

• We need policy decisions supporting additional funding opportunities and assistance for local road maintenance.
QUESTIONS?