August 5, 2009

Ms. Paula Hammond, Secretary
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, Washington 98504-7300

Ms. Lorena Eng, Regional Administrator
Washington State Department of Transportation, Northwest Region
15700 Dayton Avenue North
P.O. Box 330310
Seattle, Washington 98133-9710

RE: SR 908 ROUTE JURISDICTION & OVERLAY FUNDING TRANSFER

Dear Ms. Hammond & Ms. Eng:

As you may know, the cities of Redmond and Kirkland have filed a Route Jurisdiction Transfer (RJT) request of State Route 908 to the cities in 2009.

Oversight of RJTs has been transferred from the state Transportation Improvement Board to the state Transportation Commission this legislative session. A draft staff report for the RJT request has been prepared by the TIB and is in agreement with our joint request. Public process for receiving comment and completing the transfer now resides in the purview of the state Transportation Commission. We are writing this letter to you to underscore the terms necessary for Kirkland’s receipt of SR 908 in its current substandard condition requiring pavement overlay.

Funding for the pavement overlay has been included within the WSDOT region’s overlay program. With the cities’ possible assumption of this facility, we are requesting transfer of the state’s budget for pavement overlay for that portion of SR 908 within Kirkland city limits: from I-405 to 132nd Avenue NE.

Kirkland is planning a multiple-staged construction project to improve NE 85th Street / SR 908 and will be performing extensive work on underground utilities, traffic signal upgrades, non-motorized improvements, and some capacity improvements at intersections on this corridor. This set of projects is currently in design and right-of-way acquisition. It is acceptable to Kirkland to receive SR 908 and the state’s responsibility for pavement overlay, as well as all future maintenance responsibilities, provided that the state transfers funding allocated for current much-needed pavement overlay of SR 908.

It’s in the public’s interest to have pavement overlay occur after the city’s extensive improvements to SR 908 / NE 85th Street, and after the extensive disruption of utility trenching and construction activity is complete. Kirkland endeavors to enter into a local agency
agreement with the state to receive pavement overlay funding from the WSDOT for SR 908 / NE 85th Street as part of its planned corridor improvements. It is not probable that Kirkland could continue to assume a state route transfer in need of asphalt overlay paving without such an equitable agreement. We understand that the City of Redmond is making the same request, and are in support of their efforts to enter into an agreement with the WSDOT so that they may move forward with the RJT and complete their improvements to downtown Redmond.

We kindly request your concurrence on this transfer of pavement overlay funding, and look forward to working with WSDOT staff to coordinate execution of an agreement to this effect, as part of an acceptable Route Jurisdiction Transfer request. Please have your staff contact Ray Stelger, Capital Projects Manager, at (425) 587-3833 to coordinate the details of such an agreement. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Daryl Grigsby
Public Works Director

cc: Reema Griffith, Executive Director, Washington State Transportation Commission
    Bill Campbell, Director of Redmond Public Works
    Ray Stelger, Capital Projects Manager