

East Aberdeen Mobility Project

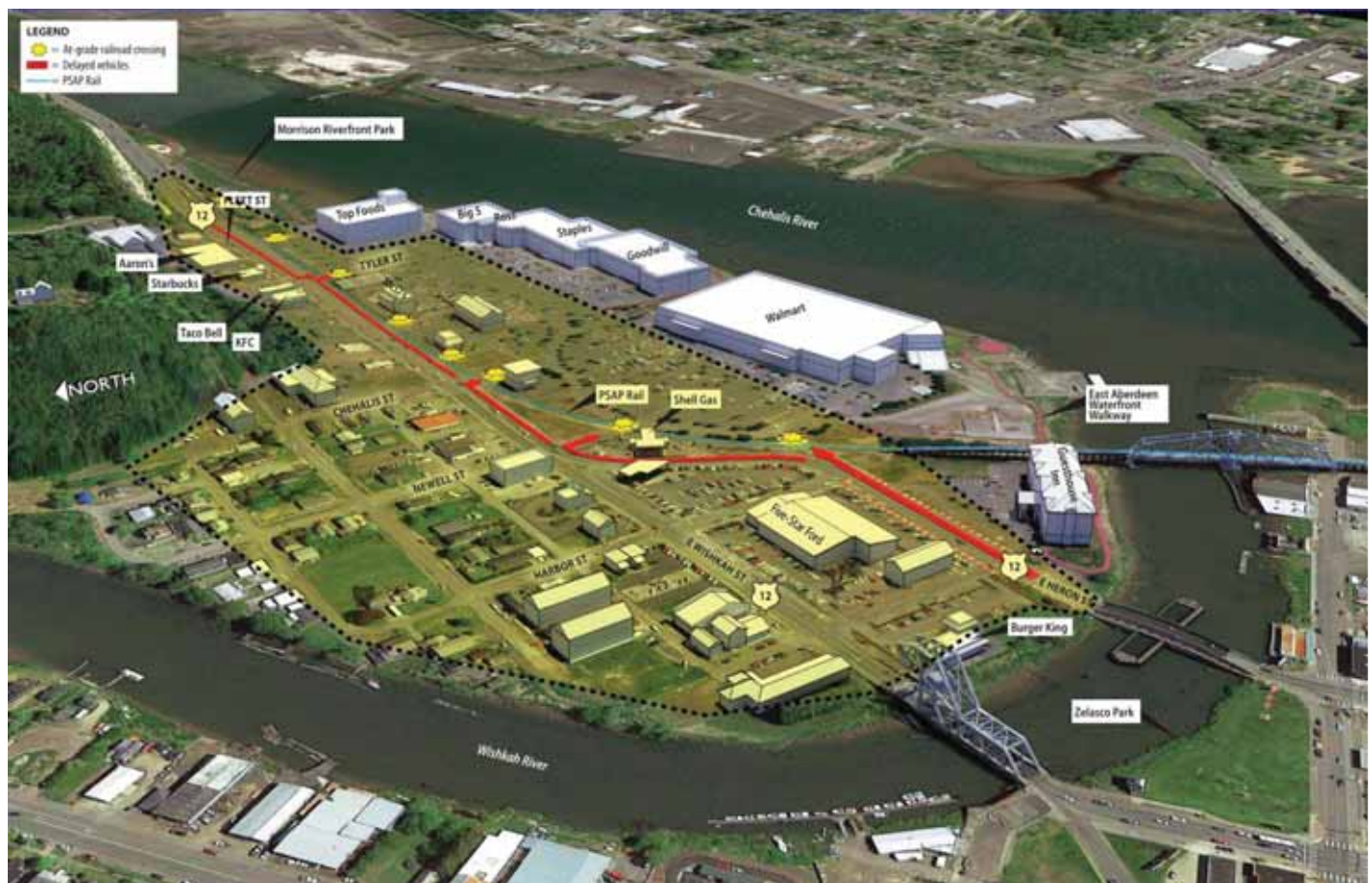
What is the East Aberdeen Mobility Project and why do we need it?

The need for the East Aberdeen Mobility Project was initially identified in the US 101 Regional Circulation Project, completed in 2007. The project is a two phased effort to identify viable transportation enhancements along the US-12 highway corridor in the vicinity of Gateway Plaza (see study area map below). The primary impetus for this project is growing concern over traffic flow and safety. Currently, parked or extended-length trains can block access into and out of high-traffic destinations south of US-12 for up to a half-hour or more, and rail freight trips are only projected to increase over time.

Priority project objectives include:

- Easing congestion into and out of Aberdeen, for vehicles and freight
- Reducing blockages that impede shopping and neighborhood access
- Improving safety for pedestrians, and bicyclists
- Identifying solutions that can be implemented quickly and cost-effectively

In the first phase, project engineers will develop and test several alternative solutions with affected property owners, the general public and relevant permitting agencies (late 2014). Based on community feedback, the project team will develop an engineered, implementation-ready alternative during the second phase (mid 2015).



Who's sponsoring the project?

The first phase of the East Aberdeen Mobility Project is funded through a federal transportation grant and a local match provided by the Port of Grays Harbor. The Grays Harbor Council of Governments (GHCOG), which secured the federal grant, is administering the first phase of the project with additional oversight provided by the City of Aberdeen, Port of Grays Harbor and Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Phase II of the project will be funded with assistance from GHCOG and the Port of Grays Harbor and coordinated by the City of Aberdeen. A multi-disciplinary consultant team, led by David Evans and Associates, has been retained to assist in the alternatives analysis phase.

What options are under consideration?

The project team is exploring a variety of options. However, several realities limit the range of possible solutions:

- **Geography** - With the geographical constraints of Think-of-Me Hill, Wishkah and Chehalis Rivers, and the dedicated highway and rail corridor right-of-ways, the physical space available to reroute or expand traffic lanes is limited.
- **Geology** - Much of the study area is characterized by high groundwater and challenging soil conditions, meaning any access options going "under" the road will be complicated, costly or impossible.
- **Physics** - Routing traffic "over" rail lines requires a minimum vertical clearance of 23-feet and road design guidelines suggest grades of 5% or less, meaning any overpass that empties into Gateway Plaza will need space to land.
- **Economics** - US-12 is a pipeline for residents, workers, visitors and freight; changes in the corridor need to be easy to understand and even easier to navigate.
- **People** - Proposed solutions must be balanced with potential impacts to local residents and businesses so that personal safety and financial well-being are not adversely impacted by corridor updates.

Given these factors, the project team is currently exploring several scenarios that provide above-grade access into Gateway Plaza, but with different landing points. These scenarios will be further developed with input from property owners and other key stakeholders and then presented for public review in early fall 2014.

No traffic-disrupting activities are planned as part of the study, though survey crews will occasionally be in the vicinity to study road alignment, locate utilities and conduct other engineering activities.

What's next and how can I participate?

The community is invited to weigh in on the options and help select a preferred alternative during two open houses.

The first open house is scheduled for:

Tuesday, October 14, 5:00-7:00 PM at the
Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chamber -111 S. Wooding Street, Aberdeen

A second open house will be held in November or December.

For more information, please contact Vicki Cummings, Grays Harbor Council of Governments, at 360-537-4386.



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