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Aberdeen, Washington
June 19, 2014

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East Aberdeen Mobility Project – Alternatives Analysis Underway

The Grays Harbor Council of Governments (GHCOG), in partnership with the Port of Grays Harbor and the City of Aberdeen, has initiated preliminary work on the East Aberdeen Mobility Project. The project will evaluate alternatives for easing congestion along US 12 between Riverfront Park and the Wishkah River Bridge. Additional project priorities include facilitating access to local businesses in and around Gateway Plaza, improving pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety, and avoiding periodic traffic backups caused by existing rail freight traffic.

Federal highway funding for the study, which is expected to wrap up by the end of 2014, is channeled through the Washington State Department of Transportation. Potential alternatives will be presented to the public for review and comment later this fall. Meeting notices and other opportunities to provide input will be published in advance.

The project team is in the beginning stages of gathering data to support the development of design alternatives. The team will begin contacting area businesses and property owners to identify stakeholder priorities and concerns. Berglund Schmidt & Associates of Hoquiam, project surveyors, will be out in the field in the next two weeks to gather field data and document existing conditions. The majority of their work will be performed outside the roadway travel lanes and should not cause any traffic delays.

Once the preferred alternative is identified, the project can be advanced to the design stage. GHCOG Executive Director Vicki Cummings says “ultimately, the team is looking for affordable, practical alternatives that can be implemented as quickly as possible.”

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