

Greater Maple Valley Area Council  
P.O. Box 101  
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July 11, 2006

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Ms. Dougherty:

The Greater Maple Valley Area Council appreciates your division's participation at our monthly meetings including Monday, July 10's meeting regarding the closure of 276<sup>th</sup> Ave SE in the Hobart community near Maple Valley. That meeting was attended by over 25 concerned and affected citizens to discuss issues related to the closure and rerouting of traffic during culvert replacement. We appreciate the time and efforts of Mr. Overton (who addressed us on his vacation time) and other DOT personnel in attendance. However, we are concerned that, as the elected representatives for local citizens to King County, we were not alerted to this project by your division until reading about it in the local *Voice of the Valley*. Your personnel expressed their apologies for this oversight and we thanked them. We requested and DOT personnel agreed to return in August and September to provide project updates.

At the meeting DOT presented the designated detour route to be used during the project's 45-day duration. Questions that arose during the *first* local public meeting on the closure held in June were addressed. Finally, new issues brought up by those in attendance including Area Council members were discussed and several mitigations proposed and agreed to.

Many concerns were raised including traffic volumes and flow, speed limits, and local access. Four local rural roads in addition to 276<sup>th</sup> Ave SE will be affected during the project's duration: SE 216<sup>th</sup> St, 244<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, SE 208<sup>th</sup> St, and SE 200<sup>th</sup> St. DOT personnel were continually pressed to recognize the rural nature of all these roads, especially the current levels of traffic and speed limits observed by motorists. In addition, major concerns were raised related to the existing temporary traffic signal at the 244<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and SR-18 intersection and the at least 2-week overlap with the 276<sup>th</sup> Ave SE closure's diversion of traffic that will certainly cause problems.

DOT provided several mitigations to problems discussed at the *first* June public meeting. These include: (1) motorcycle officers for additional traffic control on an as-needed basis during the project; (2) an officer at the SE 216<sup>th</sup> St and 244<sup>th</sup> Ave SE intersection during peak commutes; (3) officers at other locations on an as-needed basis; (4) electronic signs showing motorist's radar-read speeds on SE 216<sup>th</sup> St (it was requested this be done soon to increase motorists' awareness and DOT personnel agreed); and (5) signage on 276<sup>th</sup> Ave SE near Four Corners and near SR-18 to alert motorists and large truck traffic to potential delays and encourage alternate routes be used.

Several additional mitigations for SE 208<sup>th</sup> St and SE 200<sup>th</sup> St requested at this *second* meeting were discussed. These include: (1) "Local Access Only" signage at both ends; (2) mowing of grass on each side to show there are essentially no shoulders; and (3) addressing guardrail, road jogs, and blind spots (especially on SE 200<sup>th</sup> St). DOT personnel agreed to the "Local Access Only" signage and will look at the details of the other mitigation requests.

We thank you and your personnel for your time and request to be promptly alerted to future local road projects.

*Original signed by*

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Steve Hiester  
Vice-Chairman, Greater Maple Valley Area Council

cc: Frank Overton, Project Engineer, 276<sup>th</sup> Road Closure, [frank.overton@metrokc.gov](mailto:frank.overton@metrokc.gov)  
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