



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2006

Transportation funding includes \$2,010,250 for Mount Vernon's Riverside Drive and College Way Intersection.

MOUNT VERNON – On Friday, November 17, 2006, the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) informed the City that they had received a grant of \$2,010,250 to be used for improvements to the Riverside Drive and College Way Intersection. This Phase I project, having a total project cost of approximately \$3.58 million, will upgrade the traffic signal, add new right hand turn lanes to the east, west and north bound legs, and dual left hand turn lanes to the east and west bound legs.

The Riverside Drive and College Way Intersection is the busiest in the County, with over 45,000 vehicles passing through it each day. The addition of upgraded signalization, right hand turn lanes and dual left hand turn lanes will greatly improve traffic flow in the area.

In addition to the TIB grant for the Riverside Drive and College Way Intersection, the City has previously received a Distressed County Grant in the amount of \$300,000 and the County Commissioners are considering an additional appropriation of \$256,000 from their County Road Fund.

Mayor Norris said "This project is one of my top priorities, and I'm pleased that our hard work is showing results. I want to especially thank the TIB staff for their hard work in reviewing the many grant requests, and the TIB Board for approving our application. Norris further said "We have plans to upgrade the Riverside Drive and College Way Intersection, as well as the College Way and Freeway Drive Intersection and Freeway Drive north to Stewart Road. This is just the start of a multi-phased improvement project that will greatly enhance traffic flow in and around the entire area." Assistant Public Works Director Mike Love, who oversaw the application process, was extremely pleased with the news and very appreciative of the TIB. "The TIB has historically been a strong supporter of Mount Vernon projects, and we very much appreciate their help" said Love. Love also said there were 110 applications for this type of funding program, and 21 applicants were successful.

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