



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 8, 2005**

**Mount Vernon City Council approves consultant agreement to begin Waterfront Area and Downtown Master Plan.**

MOUNT VERNON – On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Mount Vernon City Council unanimously approved a consultant agreement with the Seattle based firm of KPFF to begin creating a Waterfront Area and Downtown Master Plan.

A major component of the Master Plan is flood protection measures that will reduce the occurrence of flooding in the downtown area. The flood protection work on this Master Plan will be coordinated with Skagit County's ongoing flood study of the entire Skagit River system.

In addition to flood protection, the Master Plan will examine ways to improve downtown pedestrian and vehicular circulation, provide enhanced opportunities to access the riverfront, create additional parking, and support private investment in the downtown area. This plan will guide the investment of public and private resources over the next 20 years and will serve as a catalyst for a series of redevelopment activities in the downtown area.

Mayor Bud Norris said that "Flood protection and enhancement of the downtown area for our residents and businesses is a priority in my administration. After many years of talking about these issues, it's time for action. I'm very pleased and thankful to the Council for approving this much needed Waterfront Area and Downtown Master Plan."

For further information, contact:

Eric Stendal  
City of Mount Vernon  
360-336-6211