

Fact Sheet

Project Name: Rhodes Lake Road Corridor Study Final Programmatic EIS

Project Description:

In 2001, the Pierce County Council passed a resolution of intent (Resolution No. R2001-80) to establish a new County roadway corridor, between 198th Avenue East and SR 162, in the vicinity of Rhodes Lake Road. The Corridor Study process began in 2003. In October 2004 Pierce County Planning and Land Services issued a Determination of Significance, requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address probable adverse impacts to the environment that could result from construction of a new roadway.

The decision to consider establishing a corridor in this area was made in support of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan, which designates the plateau area south of Bonney Lake and east of the Puyallup River (referred to as the Orting Plateau) as an Employment Based Planned Community. Zoning for the area would accommodate an additional 10,300 dwelling units and 9,600 jobs by 2030.

The corridor alternatives studied in this EIS process include a four-lane roadway from SR 162, across the Puyallup Valley, and up the Orting Plateau. The purpose of the new corridor would be to provide essential east-west mobility and offer a viable alternative to the existing Rhodes Lake Road, which was not designed to accommodate the higher volumes of traffic associated with the current approved land use.

The Rhodes Lake Road Corridor is being considered in this EIS process in order to address the following conditions:

- **Future Growth** – there is a significant amount of new residential and employment growth that is planned to occur on the Orting Plateau.

- **East/West Demand** – as growth occurs, there will be increasing east/west travel demand in addition to the current north/south movement between homes and jobs.
- **Inadequate Network** – there are a limited number of existing and planned routes to accommodate planned growth and meet the east/west travel demand needs.

Project Proponent:

Pierce County

SEPA Lead Agency and Responsible Official:

Pierce County Environmental Official
c/o Jan Verone
Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities
Transportation Services
3619 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98418-7921

Permits and Approvals:

The formal establishment of a new roadway corridor would not require any specific permits; however, it would require the approval of the Pierce County Council through the development of an ordinance to establish a new roadway corridor. If the County Council establishes a corridor and decides to build a new roadway, the following permits or approvals may be required.

Federal

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – National Historic Preservation Act Consultation (Section 106)
- National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation
- National Marine Fisheries Service – Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Clean Water Act
Section 404/River and Harbors Act

State

- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency – Clean Air Act, Air
Quality Conformity Review
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation – National Historic Preservation
Act, Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultation
- Washington State Department of Ecology – Clean
Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Washington State Department of Ecology – National
Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES),
Individual Construction Stormwater Permit
- Washington State Department of Ecology – Coastal
Zone Management Act (CZMA), Consistency
Certification
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife –
Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources –
Aquatic Lands Use Authorization or Aquatics Land
Lease
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources –
Forest Practices Permit. Permit would be issued by
Pierce County.

Local

- Pierce County and the City of Bonney Lake – Critical
Areas Development Permits
- Pierce County and the City of Bonney Lake – Shoreline
Substantial Development Permit
- Pierce County Wetland approval

EIS Authors and Contributors:

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Date Document Issued:

Draft EIS issued June 6, 2007

Final EIS issued January 11, 2008

Draft EIS Comment Period and Open House:

The Draft EIS public comment period ran from June 6, 2007 to July 23, 2007.

A public open house for people to ask questions and submit comments on the Draft EIS was held on Thursday, June 21, 2007.

Date Final Action is Planned:

It is anticipated that the County Engineer will submit the establishment report for County Council consideration in spring 2008.

Subsequent Environmental Review:

Pierce County staff will make a preferred alternative recommendation to the Pierce County Council in early 2008. At that time, the Pierce County Council will decide if they want to develop an ordinance to establish a new roadway corridor, and if so, they will establish the corridor. If the County Council establishes a corridor, a project-level EIS must be completed prior to actual construction of a new roadway.

Document Availability and Cost:

Copies of the Final EIS Addendum or the Draft EIS may be obtained from:

Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
Records Department
Public Services Building (Annex)
2401 South 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98409-7485

Cost to purchase copies of the Final EIS is:

\$35.00 each – hard copy

\$2.00 each – electronic file on CD

This Final EIS Addendum is also available online at:

www.piercecountywa.org/rlrcs

Final EIS Information:

This Final EIS Addendum includes the following information:

- Cover Letter
- Updated SEPA Fact Sheet
- Final EIS Update
- Draft EIS Errata Sheet
- Additional Appendices
- CD of the Draft EIS