

RHODES LAKE ROAD

Corridor Study

Project Newsletter — Fall 2003

Why Study Rhodes Lake Rd Corridor

Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan designates the Puyallup Valley as a rural and agricultural area and the plateau south of Bonney Lake as an urban growth area. As the planned growth occurs, additional roadways will be required. Rhodes Lake Road is the only existing east-west connection serving this area.

The Study Objectives

The study will evaluate the two objectives outlined in Pierce County Resolution R2001-80:

1. Determine the feasibility of a new route from the plateau south of Bonney Lake to State Route 162.
2. Recommend a location for the route.

If a new route proves to be feasible, the County will proceed with environmental documentation and a formal "Route Establishment" process. The process culminates with a County Council decision whether or not to establish a new County road for this corridor connecting 198th Street and State Route 162.

What Was Learned in Phase 1?

Phase 1 of the study began in February 2003. Information was gathered within the study area and future traffic volumes with and without new roadway improvements were estimated. This process resulted in 21 potential alignments for a new Rhodes Lake Road Corridor. These were presented during the May 2003 Open House. Further analysis of the potential alignments concluded:

- With various improvements proposed by 2030 there is still a need for additional "east-west capacity" in the Rhodes Lake Corridor to meet the future travel demand.
- By the year 2030 the study area roadway network will need a system with a total of six east-west lanes connecting the plateau with State Route 162; currently there are two lanes (e.g. Rhodes Lake Road) down from the plateau and four lanes crossing the river.

What Has Been Done in Phase 2?

Evaluation criteria were refined and used to screen alignment options to see which one(s) do the best of job of meeting the need with the lowest relative impacts and costs.

Alternative routes serving the Rhodes Lake Road Corridor have been narrowed. Additional community feedback will be sought at the October 22 Open House to assist in selecting the three most feasible routes to advance into the next study phase, environmental analysis. A no build alternative will also be evaluated.

What Are The Next Steps?

- The Open House and the second phase of the Corridor Study will be completed by the end of November. Feed back from the community will be incorporated into the study.
- Environmental documentation describing the impacts of the most feasible route and a no-build alternative will be prepared.
- Public Open Houses will be held in mid 2004.
- Coordination with the Alderton-McMillin Community Planning process will begin.

The Corridor Study Will Be Completed In Phases Over the Next 2 Years

- ▶ **Phase 1 - Developing Route Alternatives (Feb. - June 2003)**
- ▶ **Phase 2 – Screening and Evaluating Route Alternatives (July 2003 - November 2003)**
- ▶ **Phase 3 - Environmental Documentation (December 2003 - December 2005)**
- ▶ **Council Ordinance to Establish, or not Establish, a Rhodes Lake Corridor (Early 2006)**



Pierce County



Pierce County

Public Works and Utilities Department
Transportation Services
2401 South 35th Street, Room 150
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7485

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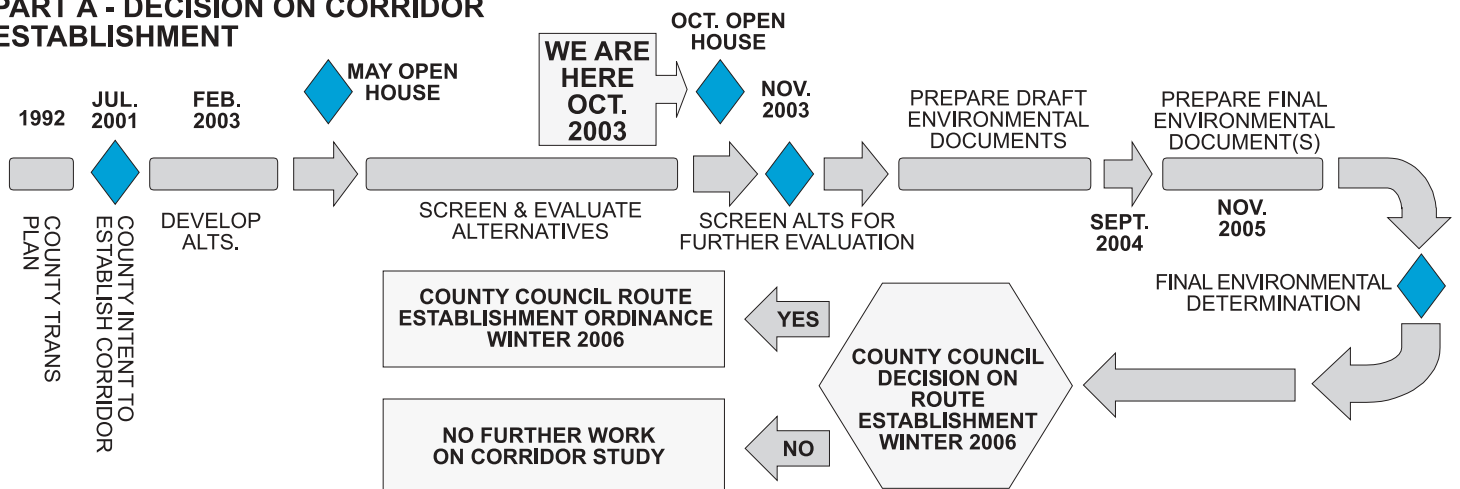
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Pierce County Public Works and Utilities invites you to give your input in the development of this project. A public Open House will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the McMillin Grange, 12615 SR162, Puyallup, Washington.

SCHEDULE:

PART A - DECISION ON CORRIDOR ESTABLISHMENT



Frequently Asked Questions

1 Who is Involved in the Corridor Study?

Pierce County is leading the study. A Project Leadership Team has been formed consisting of representatives from the County, WSDOT, Cities, Tribes, community interests, and major developments under review providing guidance and sharing information.

2 Is the decision to build new roads a foregone conclusion?

No. Based on traffic data, current plans and policies, there is a need for additional east-west capacity in the vicinity of Rhodes Lake Road. The details of what this new roadway capacity would cost or what impacts it would have to people and to the environment is still under study and discussion with the community.

3 Why Can't SR 410 Handle the New Traffic?

The planned improvements on SR 410 (new HOV lanes from SR 167 to 184th Ave. E.) will not be adequate to meet the total east-west travel demand in the area. The steep terrain makes it impractical to add more lanes than those currently planned.

4 Is a new Rhodes Lake Road Corridor dependent on an expansion of SR 162 or SR 410?

No. WSDOT has long-range plans for improvements on both SR 162 and SR 410. The Rhodes Lake Road Corridor provides benefits that are independent of improvements to the state highways. However, WSDOT is involved in this process and working together the agencies can provide a regional solution that makes sense for County and State Highways.

If you have other questions or comments, please contact:

Douglas Thompson, P.E.,

Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, at 253-798-7250.