

A missing link.

Mid-Pierce County is growing fast and includes Parkland, Spanaway, Frederickson, Puyallup and Graham. The main east-west route serving this area, SR 512, is becoming more and more congested during peak travel hours. What's more Perimeter Road, an option through Fort Lewis and McChord AFB, can be closed to increase base security. The Cross-Base Highway is a "missing link" in the region's transportation system (Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Metropolitan Transportation Plan *Destination 2030*). It will connect I-5 to mid-Pierce County, creating an integrated transportation network. In doing so it will:

- Reduce the east/west drive time by up to 42%
- Ease traffic congestion in the mid-Pierce County area including SR 7 and SR 512
- Save about \$17 million per year in vehicle operating and driver/passenger peak hour time costs
- Improve connections between Lakewood, Dupont and Mid-Pierce County
- Provide an opportunity for an express bus route
- Improve emergency vehicle access to the County
- Increase capacity between Pierce County and destinations along the I-5 corridor
- Enhance the economic development potential in Pierce County

The alternatives and impacts have been studied.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the culmination of many years of planning and partnering between Pierce County, the City of Lakewood, Washington State Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base. The studies completed to date for this project include:

- 1992 – Alternatives Study - Initial road alignment alternatives were studied
- 1998 – Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Major Investment Study
- 1999 – Additional environmental studies
- 2000 – Federal Highway Administration Added Access Report – required for revisions to interchanges along Interstate 5.
- 2001 – Evaluation of additional road alignments

- 2002 – Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- 2003 – Final Environmental Impact Statement

Here's where we are after all the studying.

A lot has been accomplished and we're reaching the end of the project's environmental phase.

Completion of the EIS evaluation process means that three major milestones have been reached. We have:

- Developed and screened a range of alternatives and identified those with the least amount of impacts to people and the environment.
- Selected a preferred alternative
- Committed to measures that reduce the project impacts, including developing new areas for wildlife.

Now we can start a more detailed design and right of way acquisition leading ultimately to construction.

Find out more.

Following release of the FEIS, you will have the opportunity to review and provide comments. There are two open houses scheduled to answer questions and give you the opportunity to make comments on the project.

Woodbrook Middle School, Cafeteria

14920 Spring Street
Lakewood, WA
Tuesday, October 14, 2003
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Camas Prairie Elementary School, Multipurpose Room

320 – 176th Street East
Spanaway, WA
Thursday, October 16, 2003
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The Big Test.

Upon review of comments the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is a legal document that is the federal agency's decision on the proposed action after completion of the EIS process. A ROD includes the mitigation measures proposed as a condition of approval. It will include responses to comments received on the FEIS as well as document any final changes resulting from the comments. The ROD will also describe the selected alternative, explain the reasons for the decision and summarize the mitigation measures.



Reviewing and Commenting.

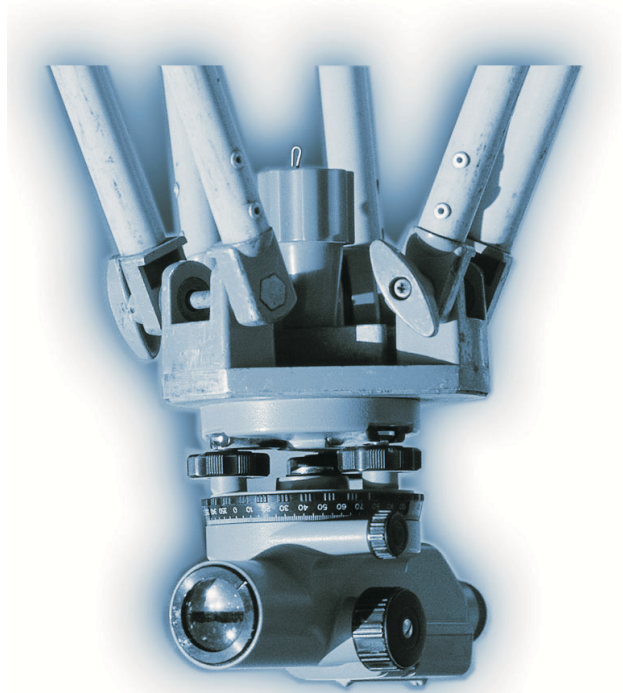
If you want to review the FEIS it's as easy as spending time at your local library or going on-line. Copies of the FEIS will be available for review at public libraries throughout Pierce County and at the Pierce County Public Works and Utilities Department, 2401 S. 35th St., Rm.150, Tacoma, WA 98409. Paper copies and CD's are also available for purchase at the above address. An electronic version of the document will be available on-line at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/crossbasefeis>. Excerpts or full copies can be copied and purchased from Quick Print Centers 11319 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma and L & L Printing 10506 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood.

Once you have reviewed the document, written comments can be submitted at the open houses or the address above for Pierce County Public Works Department.

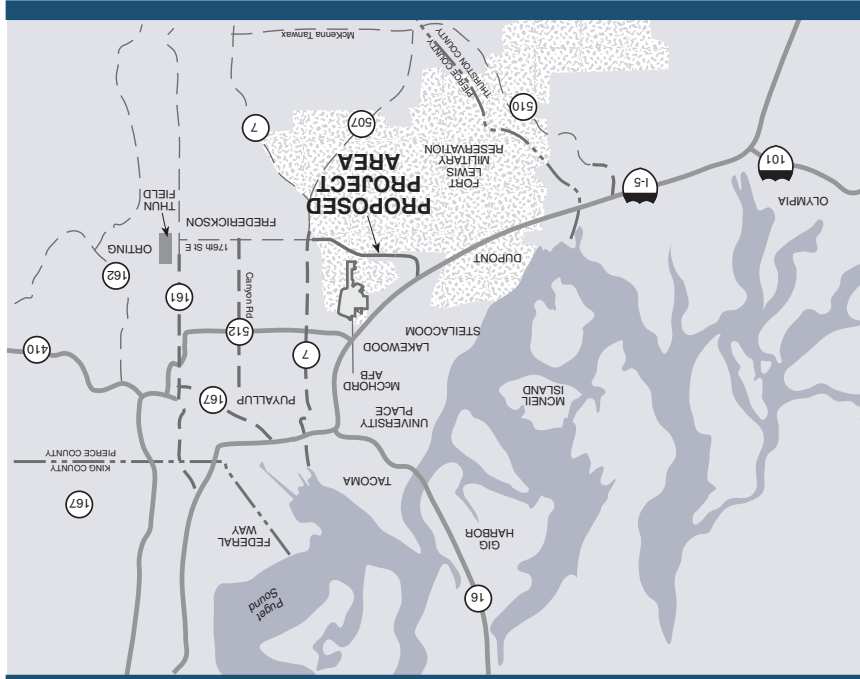
PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA WA
PERMIT NO 820



Cross-Base Highway Project
2401 S. 35th St., Room 150
Tacoma, WA 98409



This is Next.



A Major Milestone.
The final
Environmental Impact
Statement has been
issued for the Cross-
Base Highway.
The next step is
engineering.