



## Chelan County Transportation Element Update

### DRAFT Meeting Summary Public Open House #1

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Center Way,  
Wenatchee

#### **Overview**

Chelan County hosted a first project Open House on June 3rd to introduce the public to the update process for the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The update is required because the growing population and changing nature of the regional economy require realigning the County's transportation needs with current and projected land use patterns. Approximately 20 people attended the event which included a presentation by the consultants and Chelan County staff and exhibits that described the history, objectives, current conditions and initial observations about transportation issues in Chelan County. Attendees were encouraged to express their priorities on a matrix describing transportation issues in Chelan County in addition to completing comment forms. The public meeting was followed by meetings with the project Stakeholder Advisory Group and Steering Committee on June 4, 2008.

#### **Notification**

Community members were notified about the meeting through public service announcements by County Commissioners during their weekly radio programs, notification on the project website and a press release to local media. In addition, an e-mail invitation for the event was sent to all members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group with a request that they forward it to organizations that they represent and to others in their communities and agencies.

#### **Presentation**

Jon Pascal from the Transpo Group provided a presentation about the project. Mr. Pascal noted that the project is targeted for completion by the end of the year. He then discussed the plan objectives which are:

- Engage the community in the planning process
- Update the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan
- Establish a fundamental link between County land use and transportation facilities
- Focus on unincorporated areas of the County and links into the cities
- Consider all modes of transportation including motor vehicle, aviation, rail, transit, marine, and non-motorized
- Address future transportation needs over the next 20 years
- Prioritize transportation infrastructure for all modes
- Develop realistic finance and implementation strategies
- Refine the development review process to match community goals
- Better define the level of developer contributions

Marcia Wagoner then talked about the Public Involvement Plan. She discussed how the project focused on the following public components:

- Public Meetings

- Speaker's Bureau
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Steering Committee
- Project Web Site
- Media Notices

Mr. Pascal presented a chart showing project priorities. He noted safety issues are usually one of the main concerns of most communities, but other issues primarily fell into one of three categories, which included:

- Economic factors
- Costs
- Land use and environmental policies

Mr. Pascal presented a handout which listed improvements and menu of choice of projects in the Chelan County area. Items discussed were benefits and costs, transit improvements and key issues by subarea.

Finally Mr. Pascal reviewed the major issues that they have heard so far from the community and participating agencies and organizations.

- Traffic growth due to residential development and increased tourism
- Connectivity of/in communities and need for alternative routes
- Issues associated with state highways acting as "main streets" through communities (safety, access, community character)
- Changing demands on County roadways (agricultural to general purpose)
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Funding for the maintenance and preservation of County roadways
- Making sure growth pays for its fair share
- Influence of roadway standards on community character (rural and urban)
- Prioritization of transportation improvements for all modes

### **Exhibits**

Open house exhibits were provided that offered an overview of the project, process and timeline. In addition, an exhibit identified issue areas under economic factors, facilities & services and land use & environmental factors. Participants were asked to note their three top issues on a matrix (results below). Illustrated exhibits on the types of transportation improvements that could be done were on display. Individual exhibits of each of the Subareas (Cashmere/Monitor, Chelan, Entiat, Leavenworth, Malaga, Manson, Peshastin/Dryden, Plain/Lake Weantchee, and Sunnyslope) provided maps, land use assumptions and major issues identified to date for each subarea. Consultants and County staff were available to discuss the exhibits.

### **Feedback Highlights from Comment Forms**

#### Important improvement projects:

- Multiple comments focused on the need to maintain and improve the roads that already exist in Chelan County. Note was made of the deteriorating conditions from age, weather and irrigation and the importance of ongoing repair.

- Build a sustainable future for the region by focusing transportation investment on supporting social, economic and environmentally sound living in the long term.
- Focus on projects that relieve congestion and improve safety for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
- Develop a regional plan for non-motorized transportation because it is beneficial for travel, tourism and recreation.
- Develop public transportation.
- Maintain the rural area “look and feel”.
- Focus on reducing congestion on state and county highways and providing improved links to Seattle, Spokane and the Tri Cities.
- Be fiscally responsible.
- Needs along Dixie Lane in Malaga.

Transportation system improvements to accommodate population growth:

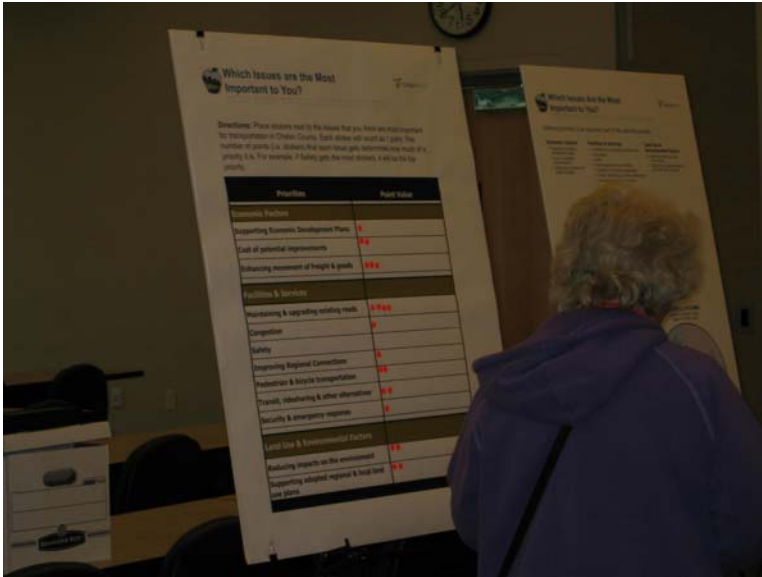
- Build adequate roads and transportation systems to meet projected growth - be aggressive and ahead of the curve and eliminate known problems.
- Make safety a major concern in both area specific and system improvements.
- Focus on development of mass transit, bike lanes and trails, pedestrian trails and sidewalks that provide a variety of choices for mobility.
- Improve travel via air and rail to better connect outside the county.
- Other ideas - smaller business centers scattered around the county to reduce travel distance for basics; standards and cost responsibility for new development in rural communities; investigate bypasses for through traffic.

Other Comments

- Vision a thriving, vital, healthy future and plan to get there.
- Use the best science in highway design and construction to accommodate all modes of transportation.
- Coordinate transportation planning between County and Cities.
- Growth should pay for growth.
- Focus first on what is really needed, then on what is desired.

**Which Issues Are Most Important to You?**

Defining priorities is an important part of the planning process. Open House attendees were asked to place dots on their top three priorities for the transportation system as shown in the photo below. The top priority was clearly “Maintaining & upgrading existing roads” followed by safety.



At the Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting on the following day, members did the same exercise individually. Their combined responses are shown on the following chart.

Priorities	# of Responses	Likelihood of Being Chosen	Overall Share	Ranking
<b>Economic Factors</b>				
Supporting economic development plans	5	17%	6%	
Cost of potential improvements	6	21%	7%	
Enhancing movement of freight and goods	3	10%	3%	
<b>Facilities &amp; Services</b>				
Maintaining & upgrading existing roads	22	76%	26%	1
Congestion	3	10%	3%	
Safety	13	45%	15%	2
Improving regional connections	2	7%	2%	
Pedestrian & bicycle transportation	10	34%	12%	3
Transit, ride-sharing & other alternatives	5	17%	6%	
Security & emergency response	5	17%	6%	
<b>Land Use and Environmental Factors</b>				
Reducing impacts on the environment	4	14%	5%	
Supporting adopted regional & local land use plans	8	28%	9%	

\* Based on input from the June public open house and stakeholder advisory group

## **Verbatim Comments from Handouts**

### What are the most important improvement Projects?

- Projects that relieve congestion and improve safety.
- Develop public transportation!
- Pedestrian and vehicle safety in and around Mission View and Sunnyslope Schools. Consider additional signage, lights and crosswalks.
- County Roads need to be evaluated for deteriorating road conditions (i.e roads breaking down from age, weather and irrigation).
- Road repair in Monitor from water installation (Who is responsible? Timeline for repair?).
- The “look and feel” of rural area to be maintained.
- All subarea plans, Malaga area for one.
- 1) Improve and maintain the roads we already have!
- 2) Focus on reducing congestion on state and county highways going through Wenatchee & East Wenatchee.
- 3) Leave the wants and like to haves out of the decision making process and focus on what we must have when spending our money.
- Leavenworth, Lake Chelan, Manson, commercial growth & tourism growth plus population growth.
- Develop a regional plan for non-motorized transportation because it’s beneficial for travel, tourism and recreation.
- Develop a thoroughfare plan creating a system of roads to address travel destinations and project volumes.
- Improved transportation links to Seattle, Spokane and possibly the Tri Cities.
- Building sustainable future for our region. Transportation should focus on supporting social, economic and environmentally sound living in the the long term.
- Specific projects: network of bike & pedestrian trails; network of mass transit expanded.
- Dixie Lane needs to be upgraded to a two lane road to accommodate the new developments that will be entering the road system. Alsl a sidewalk for the safety of pedestrian traffic, especially school children.

### How should we improve our transportation system to accommodate population growth?

- Be ahead of the curve, projects should make sure that congestion does not occur, eliminate known areas that are already a problem, or will be a problem in the future. One example is the intersection of the Entiat River Road and Highway 97A.
- Safety should be a major concern, eliminate sight problems at intersections.
- Highway safety designs, and also roadway signage, poles (breakaway) and items that impair vision.
- Improve traffic flow.
- Smaller business centers scattered around the county to reduce travel distance for basics - groceries, fuel, etc.
- Need to look at new development areas in rural communities and how roads need to be “brought up to standard” (who is responsible - county or developer?)
- Pedestrian and bike facilities.
- Is there anything that can be done to construct roads that bypass cities and towns? This would eliminate a lot of the traffic in the cities that are just passing trough with no intention of stopping!

- Fix and improve what we already have.
- More access to Link, specifically more routes to and from Wenatchee.
- Build adequate roads and other transportation systems to address projected population growth. Be aggressive!
- Improve travel opportunities via rail and air. Make it easy to connect to other parts of the US.
- Focus on development of mass transit, bike lanes/trails, pedestrian trails and sidewalks.
- Protect environmental amenities plus functions/services as transportation infrastructure is planned and implemented.
- Newcomers come for the environmental amenities plus are used to use of mass transit, bikes, pedestrian infrastructure - accommodate future population.

#### Anything else you'd like to share with us?

- Be proactive, plan ahead, utilize best science in highway design and construction, such as wider shoulders to accommodate bike riders. The Entiat River road is becoming a roadway that is getting a large increase in bike riders.
- The county is getting major subdivisions that are having a major impact on roads. I believe that contractors/developers should be the ones paying for improvements that they will need. Growth pay for growth! The cost of growth should not be paid by those already living in an area where major developments are going to be placed.
- Multiple access to all communities.
- County planners working regularly with the cities.
- Any upkeep of W. Monitor Bridge needs to have the community needs (harvest, etc.) considered.
- How to make bicycle riders more responsible for safety of rider and driver.
- The County of Chelan needs to go to impact fees and to do an all traffic fee.
- Funding is very tight - I feel the focus should be what is actually needed and then if we have money left - we could do something for trails, bike paths and non-motorized uses.
- Transportation element must take into account land use plans, economic development plans, etc.
- Don't oil outside white line. (no need to oil and gravel the shoulder)
- Anyone working and living inside city limits should be able to go to work without using their car.
- Vision a thriving, vital, healthy future and plan to get there!
- All people I represent want Malaga to stay rural. Please protect our life style here.

#### **Verbatim Comments from Notes on Boards**

These are comments from both the public open house and stakeholder meetings. The comments have been summarized by subarea.

- Specify projected growth in all sub-area plans – 5 year growth projections & 20 year growth.

#### Manson

- Storm water management and impact on road standards.
- Issue C is highly valued! Follow existing High Voltage power line from Chelan to Manson.

### Leavenworth

- Need to evaluate seasonal use on Ski Hill, Titus, Icicle Road, East Leavenworth Road
- Bike lane on E. Leavenworth Rd.
- Benton Street is used as Bypass to downtown highway corridor. High speed/high traffic concerns.
- North Road development needs consideration.
- Little to no safe routes to school.

### Peshastin

- Railroad underpass – Derby cut-off, widen/parking pedestrian on Main Street.

### Entiat

- Narrow ROW width along Entiat River Road. Utility infrastructure close to traveled road.
- Additional ROW needed for future utility expansion to meet growth in Entiat Valley.
- Future desire for signalized intersection/crosswalk development at Cammack or Wisdom.
- Long range plan for Railroad from Tonasket to Wenatchee – do commuter service.

### Plain

- Specify 12% growth projection – 20 years?
- Chelan PUD – 20 year comp plan – build now 115 kv transmission line from Sunitch Canyon to Plain substation. Requires significant ROW negotiations.

### Manson

- Safety at 9% grade at Raise (?) and corner.
- Alternate route for locals.
- Map school routes – look at grades and alternative routes – change grade on item G - short distance 200' to 300'.

### Chelan

- Chelan North Shore and South Shore – high aesthetic pressure from property owners for utilities. Narrow ROW, mostly overhead – utilities. Clear zone issues and high cost for conversion to underground.
- Item F - Consider beginning alternate route from SR 150 & US 97A to Manson along High Voltage transmission line route with a few spurs tapping down to North Shore Road.

### Sunnyslope

- School safety – school/easy intersection.

### Malaga

- Slide area – needs Major Road. Improvement for traffic during Fruit Harvest. Stemitt Creek Road.

### Cashmere

- Chelan PUD taking ownership of Cashmere's electrical system in 2009.