



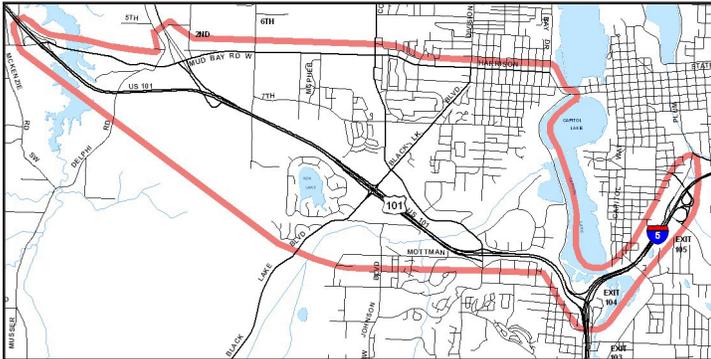
Washington State  
Department of Transportation



City of  
OLYMPIA

# West Olympia Access Study

Issue 1 - March 2007



## Announcing the West Olympia Access Study

As you travel regularly in or through Olympia's west side, you know it's a booming area. Stores, offices, churches, medical services, and housing are developing.

What changes to the transportation system are needed to support this growth? That's the question the City of Olympia and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are asking. These two agencies launched a study to evaluate existing and future traffic conditions, and to identify a package of investments that will keep Olympia's west side moving while accommodating planned growth in housing and jobs.

The West Olympia Access Study (WOAS) will evaluate the City's street system, the State's highway system, and how well they work together to support the diverse transportation needs of this area. It will look at current and future land use, and the neighborhoods and businesses on Olympia's west side. It will consider all the ways of getting around – driving, transit, biking, walking. It will look at costs and benefits, challenges and opportunities. Most importantly, the West Olympia Access Study will involve residents, businesses, and other agencies in all stages of this work.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting Debbie Clemen, WSDOT, at (360) 704-3204, one week prior to the meeting date shown on this notice. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Debbie Clemen through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.

**Civil Rights Act, Title VI Statement to the Public:** Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the department to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Persons wishing information may call the WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity at (360) 705-7098.

The goal is to come up with a workable strategy for meeting the mobility needs of West Olympia neighborhoods, businesses, employers, and service providers for decades to come. Your help will make the West Olympia Access Study successful.

### Preparing For WOAS

Getting a study like this off the ground takes a lot of coordination and background work. Olympia and WSDOT contracted with Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to lead the public involvement process. The study team started by compiling a "community profile" of the study area. This community profile assembles a demographic, economic, environmental, land use, and transportation picture of the area. Background work also includes a synopsis of previous plans and studies associated with the area, identifying any decisions or policies that have bearing on this study and its outcome.

The study team has also laid the groundwork for a comprehensive outreach process. Informational interviews conducted throughout December and January preceded the public involvement process that will hit the streets in early March. Future newsletters will share findings of the public involvement process and preview the kinds of traffic analyses that will be conducted.

There is a lot of work underway to ensure that the public has the information and tools necessary to evaluate issues and help develop informed options.

**MAKING EVERY  
DOLLAR COUNT.**

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# West Olympia Access Study

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## West Olympia Access Study



### Question of the Month

*How does this study relate to Olympia's "Yauger Way Extension Project?"*

Olympia's "Yauger Way Extension Project" is a conceptual project that is included in Olympia's Comprehensive Plan would modify access to US 101 in the vicinity of the Black Lake Boulevard interchange and connect to a future extension of Yauger Way. Any proposed access modification to the state highway system requires an objective analysis to verify that the proposed change is truly the best solution for the situation at hand. WOAS will provide the necessary analyses to determine if "Yauger Way Extension" is the best solution, or if some other option is more appropriate.

*Have a question for the WOAS team? Email us at [westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov). All questions will be answered, and one of those will be featured in each month's newsletter.*

### Did You Know ...

...that Olympia's west side accounts for about 18% of the City's population and about 33% of its jobs?

### What to Expect

Public involvement is central to the West Olympia Access Study. Residents, businesses, customers, employment sites, and service providers all have vital interests and perspectives that must be considered if the solutions generated by this study are to be workable.

- Phase I will engage the public in helping to define west side problems and issues, and provide input on the principles to be used for evaluating options. Phase I is scheduled to kick-off on March 7, 2007.
- In Phase 2 the public will evaluate options for their effectiveness in addressing problems defined in Phase 1. This is anticipated for fall 2007.
- In Phase 3 the public will evaluate all feasible options and any preferred option, if one has emerged. This should take place in winter 2008.

The entire process, including adoption by the City of Olympia and WSDOT of a preferred option, will take about two years. This newsletter is one tool that will be used to keep you informed of progress and opportunities throughout this extended process.

You will find more detailed information as it is available – analyses, presentation materials, white papers, maps on the project website – at [www.trpc.org/westolympia](http://www.trpc.org/westolympia). To monitor the legislative tracking of this Transportation Partnership Project visit the Washington State Department of Transportation website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov).

### Mark your calendar!

Two identical workshops have been scheduled to kick-off Phase 1 activities: March 7<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson Middle School, 2200 Conger Avenue NW, and March 15<sup>th</sup> at The Evergreen Christian Center, 1000 Black Lake Boulevard. Both meetings start at 6:30 pm and will conclude by 8:30 pm. Hopefully you can make one of these kick-off meetings!

*Please forward this newsletter to others you think might find it useful or interesting.*

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