



Washington State  
Department of Transportation



City of  
OLYMPIA

# West Olympia Access Study

Issue 2 - May 2008



## West Olympia Access Study Spring 2008 Update

“What do you think about traffic and mobility on Olympia’s westside?”

Just over a year ago the City of Olympia and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) posed that question to the community as they kicked off the West Olympia Access Study. That study is a joint project between Olympia and WSDOT to evaluate existing and future traffic conditions on Olympia’s west side. The purpose of the study is to identify a range of measures that will keep the west side moving while accommodating planned growth in housing and jobs.

Response from the area’s residents, employers and service providers was overwhelming. Hundreds of different ideas and suggestions were received. They included drawings and even a photo album! The input was consolidated by issue area and project type and screened to identify reasonable strategies for improving west side mobility and circulation.

**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.

### Evolution of Ideas into Scenarios

Individual ideas and project concepts were evaluated and assembled into preliminary scenarios. Preliminary scenarios were then evaluated using various traffic models and further refined. They were analyzed for how well different ideas might address current or future mobility problems on Olympia’s west side. Ineffective concepts were discarded and viable options were regrouped for further evaluation. Some of those refined scenarios were moved along for additional review and assembled into more complete packages of projects.

### Findings and Next Steps

Findings and next steps will be presented to the public later this spring. One thing is certain - there is no single “silver bullet” project that will resolve all of the west side’s mobility problems. Instead, the West Olympia Access Study will result in a package of projects that will serve as the basis of a preferred alternative. While a preferred alternative is still many months away, expect it to include a mix of local and state projects. And if you look closely at the details you just may find the idea you submitted last year!

**MAKING EVERY  
DOLLAR COUNT.**

#### INFORMATION:

Thera Black  
West Olympia Access Study  
2424 Heritage Court SW Ste. A  
Olympia, WA 98502  
(360) 956-7575  
e-mail:  
[westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov)

# West Olympia Access Study

2424 Heritage Court SW, Ste A  
Olympia, WA 98502-6031

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Olympia, WA  
Permit No. 78

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## West Olympia Access Study



### Question for The WOAS Team

*Why don't they just build a new interchange at Kaiser Road?*

State highway access is governed by strict rules regarding spacing. In an urban area such as the City of Olympia a new interchange can be located no closer than one mile to an adjacent interchange. That is because sufficient space is needed to safely accommodate high speed through movement, deceleration for off ramps, acceleration for on ramps, and merge movements. While Kaiser Road is a little more than a mile from the Black Lake Boulevard / US 101 interchange, it is less than a mile from the Evergreen Parkway interchange. The West Olympia Access Study is evaluating modification of the Evergreen Parkway interchange to include access to Kaiser Road but a new interchange at Kaiser is not an option.

*If you have a question for the project team, email us at [westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov). All questions will be answered and one will be featured in a future newsletter.*

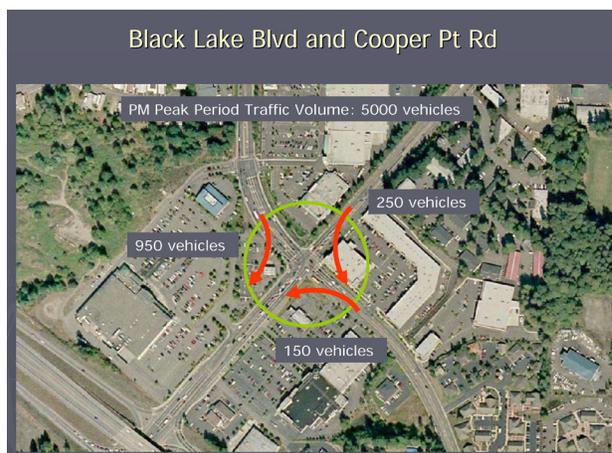
### Did You Know ...?

The Black Lake / Cooper Point intersection is the busiest local intersection in the Thurston County region. Every day upwards of 60,000 vehicles pass through that intersection.

### Spring Open Houses Will Present Findings

Open houses late this spring will provide an opportunity for you to review details of the scenario development process, technical analyses, and study findings to date. Traffic analysis data – such as the 2007 base year conditions at the Black Lake Boulevard / Cooper Point Road intersection, below – will be available. Traffic analyses are used to understand characteristics of today's traffic and what future conditions will likely be under a range of scenarios. They are an important component of the West Olympia Access Study.

At these meetings you'll be able to pick up copies of reports prepared as background for this study. You'll also find information on bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit, carpool and vanpool programs, and other trip reduction strategies, long-range land use plans and growth strategies, and more. Dates have not yet been set for these open houses. As soon as we set those dates we'll let you know. In the meantime, be sure to check out the interesting background reports on-line at [www.trpc.org/westolympia](http://www.trpc.org/westolympia). And for information on how this study relates to WSDOT Transportation Partnership Projects, visit the WSDOT website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US101/WestOlympiaAccessStudy](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US101/WestOlympiaAccessStudy).



*This is an example of traffic analysis findings that will be available for public review at the WOAS open houses later this spring.*

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

**Did you get this newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up to receive your own and any future notifications by emailing us at [westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:westolympia@wsdot.wa.gov). Or call us at 360.956.7575.**