

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: White, John
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 2:54 PM
To: Preedy, Matt; Greco, Theresa; Reilly, John
Subject: FW: Update on WSDOT Current Events

FYI.

From: Dye, Dave
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 1:10 PM
To: WSDOT ExecList
Subject: Update on WSDOT Current Events

Good afternoon! I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on a couple of things happening at WSDOT and in the Legislature that you might find interesting.

First, I just sent the Chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees a message announcing a small reorganization within WSDOT. Specifically, Paula and I have asked Craig Stone to lead a new Tolling Division, which will be a Headquarters division reporting directly to the Secretary's Office and place based in Seattle. With help from David Hopkins, Helena Kennedy Smith and a lot of support from others, Craig is charged to prepare the agency for a future that most certainly will involve a number of tolled routes, both in the Puget Sound Region and perhaps across the state.

By creating this organization, we expect Craig with his team's support to be an active participant and leader of anything and everything involving tolling across all functional and geographic boundaries in the agency. If you have a project or program that may be or is actively considering tolling, please call Craig . . . If not, he will find you. More details are forthcoming, but please join me in welcoming Craig to this new assignment.

Ron Paananen, Deputy Urban Corridors Office Administrator, has agreed to take the lead for the day-to-day operations of UCO, with a specific focus on moving the Alaskan Way bored tunnel, the SR 520 project and the I-405 corridor improvement projects along to completion. As our budget for 2009-11 becomes clear, additional adjustments are likely. Please stay tuned.

Second, SB 5682, Senator Haugen's bill to reorganize the Department into six new regions (instead of the current seven if you include UCO), has passed the Senate and will go to the House. You may recall this bill reduces the number of regions in eastern Washington from three to two, realigns Southwest, Northwest and Olympic, creates a new Puget Sound Region and eliminates UCO. I admit some surprise at the ease with which it passed out of the Senate, with 42-7 vote. I really can't speculate at this point what will happen as the bill moves to the House. It seems I've been wrong every time I have, so we will continue to monitor and keep you posted. For now, I suggest you share this information with your team members with a candid "we'll just have to see what happens in the House."

Finally, the Economic Stimulus project list was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor last week. We celebrated this week by sending three of the projects to ad. There are 34 funded projects that will require a substantial amount of oversight, and reporting to and

through project completion. The project list is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus/. You will hear more from us regarding reporting requirements, and I ask for your patience in advance as we fine-tune our methodologies and protocols here in Olympia.

That's it for now. Thank you for all of your good work and I'll see you soon!

-Dave