



**ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
DIVISION**
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M E M O R A N D U M

December 3, 2019

TO: Board of Island County Commissioners

FROM: Connie Bowers – Assistant County Engineer

RE: Whidbey Airpark Access Economic Development Study Results and Funding Options

An overview of an economic development study of the Whidbey Airpark Access project will be presented at this staff session. Island County Public Works, Island County Planning, the Island County Economic Development Council and a neighborhood advisory committee participated in a series of review meetings with the consultant over the course of the study.

The consultant estimated that Island County would see a return on investment within 10 years of constructing a new access road to the Whidbey Airpark area (from SR 525 to the existing private Crawford Road). Based on the economic benefit, staff recommendation is to move ahead with this phase of the project.

The consultant evaluated a number of options available to fund the project, with the following recommendation.

Potential Funding Source	Revenue		Potential Funding Sources
Road Fund	\$1,000,000 to	\$1,200,000	Early funding commitment
ROW Dedications	\$200,000 to	\$300,000	Right of Way easement dedications
RID Revenue	\$1,000,000 to	\$1,200,000	New Road Improvement District
State Loans	\$800,000 to	\$1,100,000	Road Fund and other sources needed to repay loans
Impact Fee Revenue	\$1,000,000 to	\$1,200,000	Allocations from countwide impact fee (if adopted)
Total	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000	

ROW – Right of Way RID – Road Improvement District

County staff recommendation is to replace the proposed Impact Fee Revenue with Rural Economic Development Funds.

A second phase could be considered at a later date that would convert the portion of private Crawford Road from the new intersection to Venturi Way (at the north end of the airport). This phase is expected to have a 20 year return on investment