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RECEIVED

November 8, 2011

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ISLAND COUNTY
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Island County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

Re: Letter of Support – Passenger-Only Ferry/Taxi Service in Saratoga Passage

Dear Commissioners:

The Port District of South Whidbey Island would like to express its interest in assisting with the creation of passenger-only ferry service to connect Langley, Camano Island, Coupeville and Oak Harbor. With our impending expansion of the Langley Marina, such local passenger-only ferry service would offer significant economic development opportunities to our community.

There are many details that need to be addressed for this endeavor, and we remain open to any and all suggestions. Since any required capital improvements will likely involve a considerable amount of lead time and expense, it is our intent to begin the conversations as early as possible.

We would like to suggest arranging an informal meeting with no more than one representative from each taxing district to engage in a conversation about this worthy endeavor before the end of this year, and the inclusion of possible ferry operators in such discussions might be helpful. The desired result of this meeting would be a work plan to move forward, and we look forward to meeting with you to address such a plan.

Sincerely,

The Board of Commissioners of the Port District of South Whidbey Island,



Geoff Tapert, Commissioner, District 1



Chris Jerome, Commissioner, District 2



Curt Gordon, Commissioner, District 3

C: Jim Patton, Director, Port of Coupeville
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Paul Samuelson, Mayor, City of Langley
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Port of Mabana, (1296 Seth Drive, Camano Island, WA 98282-7092)
Don Hoch, Director, Washington State Parks (P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504)



SKAGIT/ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



*P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, Wa 98239-5000*

December 14, 2011

Ms. Martha M. Rose
Executive Director
Island Transit
PO Box 1735
Coupeville, Washington 98239

RE: Support of Island Transit's Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program Application -
Kineth Passage

Dear Ms. Rose:

The Island Sub-Region of the Skagit/Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization offers full support for Island Transit's submittal of a Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program request for funds necessary to conduct research, planning, and engineering for the Kineth Passage located at State Route 20 and Parker Road on Whidbey Island, Island County.

The Kineth Passage project will incorporate the cultural, historical, and environmental aspects of Smith Prairie and the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. The project will also allow pedestrians and bicyclists to access the bus pullouts and trails on both sides of SR20 – without crossing across a busy state highway, thus facilitating public transportation ridership by ensuring safe access.

We feel the timing of the Kineth Passage project is a perfect fit with the other projects that you and your partners are undertaking. It is well known that Island Transit received federal funding for your new main base facilities project, which is slated to break ground in February 2012. You are also a partner in the WSDOT/Island County/Island Transit road project which realigns a very unsafe portion of SR20 located at the junction of SR20, Old Smith Prairie Road, and Parker Road. The State Legislature funding for Island Transit's portion of this project partnership allows for the construction of Island Transit's critical secondary access into your new main facilities project, as well as providing for bus pullouts, a bike and ride transit park, and access to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and Island County trails. This is an appropriate location and apt timing for Island Transit's Kineth Passage.

The Island Sub-Region of the Skagit/Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization has reviewed this project and it is consistent with the goals and policies of the Island and Skagit Counties Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. The Kineth Passage project is also listed on the most current STIP.

Sincerely,

Angela Homola
Chair, Island Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization, SIRTPO