



Media Release

City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

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Edmonds Port Commissioner and City Council Member to Co-Chair Advisory Task Force for At-Grade Railway Crossing Alternatives Analysis

***Jim Orvis and Mike Nelson Lead Advisory Task Force to Help Analyze
Potential Alternatives to At-Grade Rail Crossings on Edmonds Waterfront***

Edmonds, WA - Mayor Dave Earling has appointed Port of Edmonds Commissioner Jim Orvis and Edmonds City Councilmember Mike Nelson to co-chair the Advisory Task Force which has been formed to provide advice and insight during the study of alternatives to the at-grade railroad crossings in downtown Edmonds.

Commissioner Orvis is a retired Navy Captain and Professor of Naval Science and Commander of the Naval ROTC Unit at the University of Washington who was elected to the Edmonds Port Commission in 2004. Mike Nelson serves as executive director of the Service Employees International Union's Washington State Council and was appointed to the

Edmonds City Council in March 2015.

“I am pleased to see two respected leaders from two local government agencies come together to lead the Advisory Task Force through its critical mission of helping guide our community through the Alternatives Analysis process,” says Mayor Earling. “I am grateful for their service and dedication to our community as we work to find the best potential solution to our waterfront railway, traffic and safety issues.”

A total of \$680,000 has been contributed to the Alternatives Analysis study by the State Legislature, the City of Edmonds, the Port of Edmonds, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, and Community Transit in response to the growing problems resulting from increasing train volumes blocking vehicle, pedestrian and emergency access to and from the Edmonds waterfront. The study aims to determine the best feasible alternatives to at-grade railroad crossings at Dayton and Main Streets, which are currently blocked by 35-40 trains each day along the city’s waterfront and could eventually be blocked by up to 100 trains a day by 2030.

In addition to Commissioner Orvis and Councilmember Nelson, the volunteer Advisory Task Force members are: Kirk Greiner (Edmonds resident), Cadence Kerr (Edmonds resident), Phil Lovell (Edmonds resident), Joy Munkers (Community Transit), Rick Wagner (BNSF), Lynn Griffiths (WSDOT – Ferries Division), Lorena Eng (WSDOT), joined by City of Edmonds staff members Rob English (City Engineer) and Patrick Doherty (Director of Economic Development and Community Services). According to Mayor Earling, the Task Force’s objective is to listen, study, and make recommendations to the consultant who will be hired to conduct the Alternatives Analysis and help guide the community through the process.

After forming the Advisory Task Force, the City will begin the process of selecting a consultant to conduct the Alternatives Analysis and formulate a process for community involvement in the study. The City will issue a report in December to update State Legislators on the study’s progress. The Alternatives Analysis is expected to take approximately 14-18 months to complete and will include extensive public outreach and involvement. Once the study is complete, the City will be in position to seek funding to complete an environmental review, detailed design and construction of the preferred alternative.

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