



City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

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Contact: Patrick Doherty, Director, Economic Development & Community Services
patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov, 425-771-0251

MAYOR EARLING VISITS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND USDOT STAFF IN DC ON WATERFRONT CONNECTOR PROJECT

***Days before an Important Federal Grant Deadline, Mayor's In-Person Visits Intended to Help
Pave the Way for Potential Federal Funding***

(Edmonds, WA) - Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling, together with Public Works Director Phil Williams and Economic Development Director Patrick Doherty, traveled to Washington, DC, last week to meet in person with members of the region's Congressional delegation, as well as key staff from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT).

The purpose for the trip was to present the recently City Council-approved Edmonds Street Waterfront Connector project, the culmination of a 13-month process that analyzed 51 various alternatives to the at-grade railroad crossings at Main and Dayton Streets. The \$25-30 million Edmonds Street project provides a single-lane structure connecting Sunset Avenue at Edmonds Street to the parking lot at Brackett's Landing North. This structure is intended to provide every-day access to and from the waterfront for pedestrians and cyclists, and in the event of infrequent, yet significant, train break-downs or stoppages at the Main and Dayton Street crossings, access for emergency vehicles and ferry off-loading or on-loading with the assistance of traffic control officers. Waterfront access blockages are expected to increase as train volumes on the Edmonds waterfront are expected to increase from 40 trains a day to up to 100 trains a day by 2030.

"Our visit to Washington, DC was key to informing important Congressional leaders and chief USDOT staff about this important project for Edmonds," commented Mayor Earling. "As we get ready to submit

a federal FASTLANE grant application by this coming Friday, we felt it was vitally important to have informed allies both in Congress and at USDOT as we move forward in the grant-review process.”

FASTLANE is the acronym for a \$4.5 billion federal highways grant program entitled “Fostering Advancement in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies,” created as an out-growth of the FAST (“Fixing America’s Surface Transportation”) ACT, signed into law by President Obama last December.

The Mayor and his staff met with Edmonds resident Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Rick Larsen, Congressman Derek Kilmer, and top staff from Senator Patty Murray’s office. Congressman Larsen will be meeting with Mayor Earling and staff this week in person here in Edmonds to view the situation firsthand. In addition, the Mayor is scheduled to meet with Representative-elect Pramila Jayapal in the coming days, while an in-person meeting with Senator Murray here in the district will be set up as soon as her schedule allows.

While federal dollars through the FASTLANE grant and other programs, such as TIGER (“Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery”), are sought for design and construction of the \$25 million project, local and state funding is sought in 2017 for help with taking the project’s immediate next steps: initial design work, environmental review and permitting. For this roughly \$1 million step in the project, the City hopes to amass approximately \$300,000 locally through \$150,000 in city funds budgeted for 2017, together with contributions from its partners, such as the Port of Edmonds, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Sound Transit, and Community Transit. With this local seed money, the City hopes to leverage another \$600,000 in state funds during the 2017 legislative session.

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Mayor Earling in WA DC at Capitol



Mayor Earling with Senator Maria Cantwell



Mayor Earling & Phil Williams at USDOT