

May 26, 2011

Lyon D. Wyrick, Executive Director  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
2424 Heritage Court Southwest, Suite A  
Olympia, Washington 98502

Dear Mr. Wyrick:

On behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council, I am writing to express my support for the Thurston Regional Planning Council's Transportation, Community, and System Preservation grant application for the Joint Base Lewis-McChord/Interstate 5 Congestion Relief Action Plan.

The Thurston Regional Planning Council is seeking \$630,000 in federal funding that to develop a comprehensive initiative to improve mobility in one of the region's most congested areas. Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) experienced rapid growth as a result of military growth initiatives and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision. The JBLM is a significant, growing job center for the region, but access is quite limited. Major delays occur frequently, tying traffic in knots and increasing emissions.

The Congestion Relief Action Plan will result in an interim implementation package for relieving growing congestion on I-5 with low cost / high value measures that improve the operational efficiency of the entire system while providing incentives for the use of transit, vanpools, and carpools as recommended in the *Joint Base Lewis-McChord Growth Coordination Plan*. This can be accomplished while efforts proceed on long-term strategies to rebuild the existing infrastructure. An established team of local, regional, state, military, federal, and business partners will proceed with this work as soon as funds are available.

We wish Thurston Regional Planning Council the best in securing this grant funding. The Congestion Relief Action Plan is important to the entire Puget Sound region in addition to the Olympia-Tacoma section of the Interstate 5 Corridor.

Sincerely,



Bob Drewel, Executive Director  
Puget Sound Regional Council