

**MT BAKER ROAD AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENT
MINUTES OF OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 14, 2010**

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To improve public safety, road surface quality, and drainage on Mount Baker Road north and east of Eastsound.

Goals for this meeting:

- Provide background information, listen to citizens' issues, answer questions, and solicit support
- Form a citizen Mt. Baker Road Advisory Committee to assist with the project
- Set tasks for next meeting

Background: The current road is 20' wide with no shoulders and is unable to safely accommodate disabled vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. The roadway surface is deteriorating and the road base is failing. There are drainage issues in several spots. The speed limit is posted for 25 and 35 miles per hour with recorded speeds of 50+ mph at the Buck Park entrance.



Left – Looking westbound at milepost 0.41. Douglas fir is less than 10 feet from edge of narrow shoulderless road.

Design Criteria:

- Install a trail, maybe on both sides part way, from North Beach to Terrill Beach Roads for use by pedestrians(5feet wide) and if desired, wide enough(>10feet) for bikes also.
- Improve safety for traveling public, disabled vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians by widening the road to 30 feet (two 11 foot lanes and 4 foot shoulders).
- Rebuild failed road base and add drainage features so road base drains and maintains structural integrity.
- Design for a 35 mph speed limit and maintain existing speed limits. Review speed limits and sight distances at both North Beach and Terrill Beach Road intersections.
- Remove, relocate, or mitigate(guardrail) road hazards such as trees, fences and culvert ends to at least 10 feet from the edge of the new 11 foot wide lane(7feet from the new edge of pavement).
- Enhance or replace wetlands to mitigate those impacted by the project.
- Relocate affected utility infrastructure.

Note: Local, State Federal Permits will be required. State funding requires that the road design meet state standards, including that the road width be a minimum of 30 feet. Any changes from this standard would jeopardize funding.

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Update on Project Progress:

- Existing right of way and topographic surveying is complete. Preliminary design, public feedback, and right of way discussions are commencing. Provisions for a trail design will be included while additional trail funding is being sought. The current schedule for construction is 2012.

Schedule & Budget:

- **What will happen next? Year 2010:** Prepare pre-design report and 30% design, begin Right-of-Way acquisition, begin environmental permit strategizing, mitigation planning, and preparation of permit application. **Year 2011:** Complete design and right-of-way acquisition. **Year 2012:** Complete construction.
- **How much will it cost?: \$2,750,000 (90% State funds and 10% county Road Funds)**

Comments, Questions from Open House.

- MP 0.0 Does the radius at Terrill Beach road need to increase for 35mph design speed? This is the big Safety concern area! What about installing guardrail north of road next to pond from MP 0.0 to ~0.04. Visibility around east curve is too limited.
- MP 0.0 to 0.25 Consider trail on north side of road on Land Bank property. Consider pedestrian overpass connecting Land Bank parcels.
- We would like a multiuse trail!
- MP 0.45 cut the hump if needed for visibility.
- MP 0.36 to 0.45 the hedge of fir trees and underbrush along Mt. Baker Road protects our home from the noise and visual impacts of this increasingly heavily traveled road. The firs were planted by my family to provide some privacy, except for a couple of 100 year old trees. We would hate to see the trees cut down! Please do not cut down the hedge of fir trees and brush between our property and mt. Baker Road. My family planted most of the fir trees except for a couple of huge old 100year old trees to provide privacy and noise protection. The road is so much more heavily traveled than it use to be and this will only get more so. Safety issues: people walk and bike on the road with no shoulders. Bike paths and walking trails are good.
- Plan comment, "Show speed limit changes!"
- MP 0.66 Existing grading for future tennis courts was pointed out. Consider boundary of court/new fence to be 120feet north of existing court fence. This new fence would be about 32feet south of existing edge of road.
- Trail along road is important. Kids will use this road to get to Buck Park. We don't want them walking on shoulder of newly improved road.
- Klein property likely future high density development?
- MP 0.807 Eastbound left turn lane into OPAL?
- Consider Separated 5' min wide trail on bot sides of mt. baker rd. from n. beah rd to the opal project. Then single path on s. side is good but crossing should be provided at land bank property near opalco. Peds should also have a path on the north side east of opalco to avoid ped crossing near Terrill beach road intersection.
- MP 0.833North Watch out for 100' Well head protection area around well on OPAL property.
- MP 0.84 North Opal trail, plan road crossing.
- MP 0.85 North note EWUA treatment building.
- MP 0.86 to 0.91 North trees within 10' of fog line should be removed or protected by guardrail in all areas.

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- MP 0.9 Existing Trail is on Church Property. New/Improved Trail must not limit use or potential use of property. Concern about County taking/Owning trail.
- Catholic Church property Easement concerns wrt setbacks and liability wrt trail as it abuts St. Francis. For future building on property. Note 2nd driveway to the east.
- MP 0.985 North Beach intersection.
 - When level of service fails at this intersection, what is the impact to future development?
 - Hot mix asphalt in intersection for structural reasons.
 - Long term this intersection will be overloaded so left turn lanes should be considered now.
 - North Beach road trail is heavily traveled. North Beach/Mt Baker road intersection should have 4 way stop sign and crosswalks. Failing that, flashing yellow light and crosswalks should be considered.
- Do a document for each project that takes people's comments and supplies answers and put on county web site.
- I do support the trail improvement project as well as the road improvement project. I would like to see the trail go all the way to Terrell Beach Road.

Mt. Baker Road Advisory Committee:

We are asking property owners along this section of Mount Baker Road along with those interested citizens who signed up at the meeting to comprise the Advisory Committee.

Action Items:

Advisory Committee meeting with Public Works to discuss Right of Way acquisition. This will be a work session format and will take place in late February or early March.

