

## **SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

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**ITEM NO:** P-3

**DATE:** April 8, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Rice Road/US 2 Speed Study and Short-Term Imp.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Deborah Knight, City Administrator

**ISSUE:**

The issue before the city council is to hear a presentation by the Washington State Department of Transportation on the recent speed study on US 2 between Sultan and Gold Bar and potential short-term safety improvements to the Rice Road/US 2 Intersection.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Hear the presentation and ask questions. The council may want to provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions following the presentation.

**SUMMARY:**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was directed to review the speed limits along US 2 between Sultan and Gold Bar. WSDOT staff have completed the study and are preparing to make recommendations. The staff recommendations will be presented at the council meeting. In brief, WSDOT is not recommending any speed limit reductions within the city of Sultan.

The WSDOT has also been asked to look into low-cost safety improvements at the Rice Road/US 2 intersection adjacent to the driveway serving McDonalds and the gas station from US 2.

WSDOT staff will present some initial plans on proposed low-cost, short-term safety improvements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

City staff explored the possibility of working with WSDOT on the short-term improvements. Unfortunately, there are no funds in the street operating budget or capital budget to support any transportation improvements. The council just approved a

\$30,000 chip seal project on Eighth Street. The council could postpone this project and redirect these funds to short-term improvements at Rice Road and US 2.

The Rice Road US 2 intersection is on the city's list of proposed capital improvements (Project T-40). The city proposes a signalized intersection. The cost estimate to signalize the intersection in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan is \$1.4 million. The project is not listed in the city's 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

In recent discussions with WSDOT staff, the state is not supportive of a signal at Rice Road. A WSDOT engineering analysis of the intersection does not support a signal. In engineering terms the signal is not "warranted". Before WSDOT approves a signalized intersection, the traffic patterns are analyzed using very specific criteria. If traffic patterns meet the adopted criteria the a signal is "warranted" for the intersection.

WSDOT staff have expressed support for a roundabout at the intersection. In effect, the city has two options – 1) spend time and energy to push through a signal and the intersection without WSDOT support; 2) work with WSDOT support to a roundabout.

Either way, the city's current focus is on Sultan Basin Road and US 2. The city is still seeking funds to complete the south leg intersection. This is also a safety project. Under the current configuration, vehicles needing to travel westbound from the industrial area south of US 2 must cross two lanes of eastbound traffic in the 50 mile/hour zone. This includes community members and commercial vehicles visiting the Snohomish County transfer station.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Hear the presentation and ask questions. The council may want to provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions following the presentation.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

A – Rice Road/US 2 aerial photo



339TH AVE SE

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