

CHURCH ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

(Main Street to Heather Drive, Ferndale)

Project Overview

Church Road has been identified as one of the top 20 of regionally significant routes in Whatcom County, as it is a major north-south traffic connector that provides access to Ferndale's downtown business, commercial and industrial districts, as well as the nearby refineries and industrial and commercial properties in the region. The project is the next logical step in creating an integral link between the reconstructed Main Street (final phase to be completed in Fall of 2012) and Thornton Road, both of which have also been identified as a regionally significant, thereby expanding access to I-5.

Church Road was constructed over 50 years ago as a rural country road and annexed into Ferndale over time. It is substandard in width with no shoulders or sidewalks. Church Road is demonstrating structural failure of the chip seal surface over a minimal road base and cannot accommodate added capacity needed to support traffic volumes in the region. The roadway is presently in such poor and deteriorated condition that drivers avoid the route.

This project will improve this corridor by bringing the road to current City standards as an urban arterial, which will not only enhance safety and multimodal transportation, but will also encourage increased traffic flow throughout the region. Also planned as part of the project will be the installation of sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water utilities.

Securing funding to ensure the Church Road Project moves forward is Ferndale's top priority. Design and right of way acquisition is underway so that construction can begin as soon as economically feasible. The project is on schedule to be ready to bid by 2013 and will be fully eligible for state and federal funding.

Project Funding

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|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Project Cost | \$ 6.0 million |
| City Funds | \$ 1.2 million |
| Seeking | \$ 4.8 million in federal and/or state grant funding |

Summary of Benefits

- This project meets all 6 of the Statutory policy goals include under RCW 47.04.280, 1) Economic Vitality, Preservation, Safety, Mobility, Environment and Stewardship.
- The project provides infrastructure necessary to support ongoing growth in the area, with improved access to east/west connections between busy industrial businesses at Cherry Point, including BP's Cherry Point refinery (employing 805), ConocoPhillips refinery (employing 400), and Intalco's aluminum plant (employing 400), Ferndale and Interstate 5.
- The project is the next logical extension of improvements through Ferndale via Main Street.
- The project will link two other regionally significant roadways, Main Street and Thornton Road.
- The project will create pedestrian and bicycle facilities where none presently exist.
- The project will enhance transit facilities by providing safe pedestrian access to bus stops.
- The project will enhance water quality.

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VICINITY MAP

