

Summary Report

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is interested in finding a solution to the current safety and traffic congestion issues on SR-28. While the problem area that prompted the study is SR-28 between the Odabashian Bridge to the north and the Ninth Street intersection to the south, the area east of the Columbia River between Rock Island Dam and Rocky Reach Dam is being examined in order to find a solution that reflects community interests and values. In an effort to find a widely supported solution, WSDOT is reaching out to key stakeholders who represent constituencies that will be affected by the project. Fifteen key stakeholders were selected from lists of interested parties. Those interviewed include citizens, community activists, business leaders, orchardists, transportation providers and emergency services agencies.

Phone interviews were conducted from March 16 to April 6, 2001. Some stakeholders chose to e-mail their responses. All interviewees are aware of the highly charged feelings surrounding the project and know that brokering a solution will be challenging. However, they share the sentiment that a solution needs to be decided upon in order to alleviate traffic pressure and provide guidance for future development. Many commented on the critical need for the process to be neutral and perceive public involvement efforts to date as impartial.

The group identified three major issues facing East Wenatchee:

- Economic Development
- Traffic Congestion
- Growth Management

Suggested improvements to SR-28 included:

- Widen SR-28
- Create a new highway segment along the river or on the bench
- Address bottlenecks at bridges (widening existing bridges or building new bridges)

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Following are summaries of responses to questions asked during the interviews.