



October 21, 2010

Town of Hunts Point Newsletter

Mayor Fred McConkey is on Leave of Absence

Mayor Fred McConkey has taken a leave of absence as Mayor from September 1, 2010 until the end of this year 2010. Mayor ProTem Ted Frantz has assumed the responsibility of Mayor per RCW 35.27.160 until Fred McConkey returns in January as Mayor. All town functions and administration are continuing as usual.

Communication Issues—Getting News Out to Residents

As a result of the fast moving and varying discussions surrounding the design of the SR520 ramp, it has become clear that the Town does not have an effective way to communicate to all its residents issues that are developing quickly. Because of this, some residents may have felt that they were not being informed about what was going on with 520. In the coming months the town will try to address the issue of communications with its residents. There will be a lot of information that needs to be communicated as the 520 design is completed and construction begins.

Halloween Party at Town Hall Announcement

Halloween is just around the corner, and this year our youngsters (as well as the young at heart) will be able to participate in events throughout the weekend.

On the evening of Saturday October 30, the Hunts Point Haunted Trail will reopen for our little ghouls and goblins. Walk, if you dare, to 3858 Hunts Point Road. From 6:30-8:30pm come find your spooky way to the heated tent and light snacks, as well as kids' and adult beverages.

Then, on Sunday afternoon from 1-3 pm, join us at Town Hall for a cookie decorating party.

Pumpkins, bats, witches and ghosts will all be waiting for the kids, with drinks for kids and parents alike. Costumes NOT optional.

Finally, bring the kids to the Town Hall by 6pm for the start of Trick-or-Treating. The kids love to go together and show their Halloween best, and this will give them the chance to be all together.

We're looking for help at the cookie decorating party - buying or making cookies, buying or making cookie decorations, decorating Town Hall, etc. Please contact Janet Daly at 425.462.8063 or mizdaly@gmail.com if you'd like to join in on the fun, and to let us know how many children we can expect to join us on Sunday Janet Daly 206.228.1097

SR520 Ramp Design – Half Diamond versus Loop

There is an on going intense effort to retain the current Loop on-ramp configuration for the SR520 eastside improvement project. Currently, the On-Ramp is specified as a Half-Diamond configuration. At a recent Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) open house for the SR520 eastside improvement project, residents realized that the Half-Diamond design was going to present a number of problems for Hunts Point. At the August 2, 2010 Hunts Point Council meeting, more than 25 residents expressed their concerns and the desire to retain the Loop on-ramp design. The issues identified at that council meeting were:: Regional Bike Path crosses 84th on the road surface creating conflict with car traffic. Because the Regional Bike Path is elevated above ground level as it passes the Fairweather neighborhood, there are issues of privacy and the need for screening. Vegetation screening and improved aesthetic design of the sound walls (approximately 32 ft high) in the area of Fairweather Basin. Minimize the taking of Private Property. Combination of Points Loop Trail and Regional Bike Trail. Pedestrians with Dogs do not mix well with high speed bicycles. Sound and noise concerns. Concern over the retention pond at the Fairweather Nature Preserve and clear cutting of trees in the preserve. Access between Fairweather basin and 80th as well as the evergreen point bus stop. Don't need a large park created by the lid over 520. Traffic flow in and out of Hunts Point would add additional stops with the half diamond configuration. Would the HOV ramp be for 2 or 3 people carpools? Traffic cheaters forced to use the Hunts Point Circle to travel to 84th southbound. What is the

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Mayor

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Sue Ann Spens

Town Attorney

Margret King

Building Official

Steve Wilcox

cost difference between the the two designs? Concern over delay of the 520 Project. After public comment, a committee comprised of two council members and three citizens was formed to address the concerns of Hunts Point residents. The committee members are Councilmember Ted Frantz as the committee chair, Councilmember Kevin Hughes, Dan Temkin, Peter Powell, and Pat Finnely. It was also decided to use the services of the Transpo Group traffic engineers to analyze the pros and cons of both the Half Diamond and Loop configurations and the impact on local traffic. At the September Council meeting, Dave Bocek and Michael Heijer were added to the committee.

The SR520 traffic committee has met numerous times and has met with WSDOT on three occasions to discuss Hunts Point concerns. From the discussions with WSDOT, we have been able to address many of the issues raised at the August 2, 2010 council meeting. The regional bike trail will be routed through a tunnel under 84th. A wall 6 feet to 7 feet tall will be constructed along the regional bike trail where it passes by Fairweather Basin to restrict views of the neighborhood. A vegetation plan has been devised to plant large trees to screen the sound wall from Fairweather basin. Sound concerns were addressed. WSDOT will meet all Federal guidelines by reducing the sound levels 7 to 9 db below the design sound levels. Sound walls will significantly reduce the sound from 520 within 300 feet of the highway, but farther from the highway, there is not much that can be done to reduce the sound. The pavement will be the quietest concrete available that will last for at least 10 years. It will not be the polymer quiet pavement, due to its short life (about 2 – 3 years), that has been recently tested in the vicinity of Hunts Point on 520. The retention pond at Fairweather Nature Preserve is located on private property and not in the actual boundaries of the nature preserve. WSDOT agreed to have a 30 to 40 foot buffer between 80th and the retention pond so as to preserve the forested look from the road on 80th.

The discussion is continuing whether the design will be a loop configuration or the half diamond configuration. The WSDOT discussions revealed that there is likely no difference in cost between the two designs. The loop configuration can be implemented without any delay to the 520 eastside improvement project.

The Transpo Group report was released October 4 and is available at town hall if you would like to read it. Quickly summarized, if the projections that WSDOT has for improved flow on 520 are true, we will not have traffic “spill-backs” on 84th and Points drive. However, there will be times when traffic does back up and we need to plan for those times. The loop configuration has less impact to Hunts Point and the surrounding neighborhoods being blocked by traffic and is a simpler solution for traffic. However, the Half Diamond configuration can be made to work with mitigation. The Half Diamond introduces an additional stop in and out of Hunts Point for the left turning traffic on to 520. There is concern over a stop sign controlled left turn for two lanes and the Transpo report recommends that the intersection be controlled by a traffic light. At peak hours, there will be approximately 700 cars per hour moving through that intersection. The other recommendation is to possibly add an additional lane across 520 into Hunts Point. This will allow Hunts Point traffic to not stop for 520 traffic waiting to make a left turn onto the highway.

The remaining issues, raised at the August council meeting, will be addressed if a loop configuration is retained.

There would be no taking of additional private property in the Fairweather area with a loop design. (Two lots have already been purchased for the retention ponds). There may be some property needed from some of the lots in the Hunts Point Lane area to accommodate the bike trail and points loop trail.

Additional room is available to allow more vegetation screening of the sound walls with the loop configuration.

There is more room for a path from Fairweather to Evergreen point.

Traffic flow would be the same as we have today with no additional stops going into or out of Hunts Point.

Medina and Clyde Hill would not need to mitigate the blockage of their neighborhoods.

The park created would be smaller due to the loop area not being reclaimed. However, the lid area over 520 will be exactly the same **area** (not dimensions) as the half diamond design. At the September Hunts Point Council meeting, the SR520 traffic committee submitted its recommendation to the council to retain the loop configuration. The council voted to pursue the loop



design. At the October Council meeting, a specific public comment period was allocated for any residents to speak about the 520 design that had not yet spoken in the August or September council meetings. No residents came forward to comment on the design of 520 at that council meeting.

Since then, the SR520 traffic committee and Mayor ProTem Ted Frantz has been continuing discussions with WSDOT, Yarrow Point, Clyde Hill, and Medina to retain the loop design. It is uncertain when a final decision will be made about the on ramp configuration.

WSDOT has identified the best value proposal submitted by Eastside Corridor Constructors (ECC). Eastside Corridor Constructors is a joint venture of Granite Construction Company and PCL Construction Services. WSDOT intends to award the contract to ECC by the end of October.

There will be much activity surrounding the 520 project in the coming months, so stay tuned as design decisions are made and construction begins this spring.

Fall and Winter Preparation

As the days begin to shorten and the leaves begin to fall, it is a reminder that the Fall and Winter storms will soon be here. This year is predicted to be a bit cooler and stormier due to a La Niña weather pattern. Now is the time to make sure that drains are cleared of leaves and debris to allow water to make its way into a catch basin instead of flooding the road. If you see a drain that is blocked by leaves, please take some time to clear it. It is also a good time to make sure that you are prepared for a storm. Check your flashlights, batteries, and extra food should you need it in case of a power outage or snow storm. For further information on useful non-(911) emergency telephone numbers (Puget Power, Police, Roads, etc) you can go to the following web site and enter our zip code 98004 for the relevant information: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/E911/LinksByZip.aspx>
For general emergency preparedness information, a useful Bellevue web site is:
http://bellevuewa.gov/emergency_preparedness.htm

Its Salmon Season

Every fall, Salmon return to our streams and rivers around Puget Sound. If you are interested in seeing the salmon and hearing about salmon, there are specific places where you can see the salmon returning. During October and November, there will be volunteers available at certain viewing areas that can explain more about salmon and their life cycle. For more information go to the following web site: www.kingcounty.gov/salmon and click on **Salmon SEEs**.

Shoreline Master Program Update Open House November 1

Like other communities around Lake Washington, the Town of Hunts Point is required to update its Shoreline Master Program to conform to new state regulations. The Town received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology for this project, and work has been underway for the past year. To date, the Town has completed a shoreline inventory and analysis report, and is ready to embark on the next steps of the project, which include development of policies and regulations for the shoreline area.

Residents are invited to attend an Open House hosted by the Planning Commission on November 1, 5:30 pm at Town Hall, to provide ideas about the future of the Hunts Point shoreline. You will have an opportunity to meet with staff, consultants, and a Department of Ecology representative to hear about the shoreline update process and to learn about the recently completed shoreline inventory. We hope to see you.

For more information about the Shoreline Management Program, the following website has some Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/faqs.html>

For information about the SMP schedule go to:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/laws_rules/90-58/schedule.html



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WWW.HUNTSPOINT-WA.GOV



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- Make sure children can see well through face masks, or use cosmetics to create fun or scary faces.
- Perhaps choose a costume that does not include a face mask so your child's face is clearly visible.
- Wear light-colored clothing that is short enough to prevent tripping and add reflective tape to the sides, front and back of costume.
- Adults should accompany young children.
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay.
- Stay within the neighborhood and only visit well-lit homes you know.
- Watch for traffic
- Only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- Examine all candy before allowing children to eat it.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.
- Avoid hard plastic or wood props such as daggers or swords. Substitute with foam rubber which is soft and flexible. If you have any questions or comments regarding this information, please contact the Medina Police Department at 425-233-6420 or via email at jchen@medina-wa.gov ake sure children can see well through face masks, or use cosmetics to create fun or scary faces.