

NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2005

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: 2005 State Legislature - Mason County Projects

The Mason County Commissioners announced today a successful 2005 Washington State legislative session for the county. The county was recipient of projects and programs totaling nearly \$100 million state dollars. The activities represent a recognition of the growth now being experienced by Mason County and the important role the County will play in fostering economic viability and protecting the natural resources of the state. The money will be used to improve the state transportation network along State Route 3 and US Highway 101, improve water quality, develop important sewer infrastructure, review the impacts of septic tanks and drainfields on the environment and protect Hood Canal. Commissioners Jayni Kamin and Lynda Ring Erickson said "the dollars will be used to showcase the county's determination to become a provider of affordable housing opportunities, outstanding recreational activities, safe and efficient travel, protection of our historical treasures and high environmental quality." Commissioner and State Senator Tim Sheldon indicated "accepting the state funds positions the county to be a leader in providing good jobs and infrastructure for Mason County."

With the legislature's adjournment this week, Mason County will benefit from several projects contained in the new \$8 billion transportation package and the two-year Capital Budget.

Contained in the Capital budget along with the traditional state school construction and building projects is:

- \$16 million for construction of sewer facilities in Belfair.
- \$14.7 million for continuation of the Shelton Area Water and Sewer project from the Department of Corrections budget.
- \$1 million from Department of Ecology to design appropriate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the Hoodport to Skokomish Reservation areas of Hood Canal.
- \$320,000 for Mason County to identify failing septic systems impacting Hood Canal.

- \$300,00 for Mason County to prepare stormwater management plans for Hoodspout and Belfair.
- \$560,000 for the Mason Conservation District for construction of an aerobic digester to control manure waste in the Skokomish Valley.
- Various other funds are appropriated to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group for projects designed to reduce low dissolved oxygen levels in Hood Canal.
- \$3.4 million to add 120 beds to Mission Creek Corrections Center for women in Belfair.

The current law '05-'07 and new law transportation budgets contain funds to:

- Construct the Belfair Bypass beginning in '05-'07 for \$15 million.
- Beginning 2007, improvements to State Route 3 through Belfair - \$15.7 million
- Improve the intersection of US Highway 101 and Lynch Road - \$1 million
- Purdy Creek Bridge replacement on US Highway 101 - \$11 million
- Repair problems of creek scouring on State Route 3 at Deer Creek and Cranberry Creek for \$321,000.
- Repair unstable slopes on US Highway 101 from Purdy Canyon to Lilliwaup - \$1.3 million
- Improve fish passage on Skobob Creek on State Route 106 - \$950,000
- Safety improvements on State Route 3 between Belfair and Shelton to install centerline rumble strips - \$111,000.
- New traffic signal on State Route 3 and State Route 106 intersection - \$1 million
- New northbound on ramp from State Route 3 to US Highway 101 - \$3 million.
- In 2009, \$11 million in improvements on State Route 3 from Goldsborough Creek Bridge to Mill Creek Bridge.
- Various paving projects on State Route 119 and US Highway 101 - \$8 million.
- In 2007, begin new alignment for State Route 302 - \$5 million.

These projects and others will generate new construction jobs and tax revenue for Mason County in the future years.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jayni Kamin
Chairperson

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner

Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner