



# Media Release

## City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

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## Mayor Appoints Advisory Task Force to Help Guide City through Edmonds Railway Crossing Study

### ***Community Volunteers Join Railway, City, Port, and Transportation Officials to Help Analyze Potential At-Grade Crossing Alternatives***

**Edmonds, WA** - Mayor Dave Earling has appointed an eleven-member Advisory Task Force to provide advice and insight during the study of alternatives to the at-grade railroad crossings in downtown Edmonds. A total of \$680,000 has been contributed so far to this Alternatives Analysis by the State Legislature, the City of Edmonds, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, the Port of Edmonds and Community Transit in response to the growing problems resulting from increasing train volumes blocking vehicle, pedestrian and emergency access to and from the Edmonds waterfront. The study aims to determine the best feasible alternatives to at-grade railroad crossings at Dayton and Main Streets, which are currently blocked by 35-40 trains each day along the city's waterfront and could eventually be blocked by up to 100 trains a day by 2030.

The volunteer Advisory Task Force members are: Mike Nelson (Edmonds City Councilmember), Jim Orvis (Port of Edmonds), Kirk Greiner (Edmonds resident), Cadence Kerr (Edmonds resident), Phil Lovell (Edmonds resident), Joy Munkers (Community Transit), Rick Wagner (BNSF), Lynn Griffiths (WSDOT – Ferries Division) and Lorena Eng (WSDOT), joined by City of Edmonds staff members Rob English (City Engineer), and Patrick Doherty (Director of Economic Development and Community Services). According to Mayor Earling, the Task Force's objective is to listen, study, and make recommendations to the consultant who will be hired to conduct the Alternatives Analysis and help guide the community through the process.

"We are grateful to these members of the community and region for sharing their time and expertise with us during this next phase of the Alternatives Analysis," says Mayor Dave Earling. "Their knowledge, insight and

diverse experience will be an invaluable tool as we determine the best potential alternatives to the at-grade railway crossings along our waterfront.”

After forming the Advisory Task Force, the City will begin the process of selecting a consultant to conduct the Alternatives Analysis and formulate a process for community involvement in the study. The City will issue a report in December to update State Legislators on the progress of the study. The Alternatives Analysis is expected to take approximately 14-18 months to complete and will include extensive public outreach and involvement. Once the study is complete, the City will be in position to seek funding to complete environmental review, detailed design, and construction of the preferred alternative.

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