



Press Release

City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2015

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Port of Edmonds Approves Funding To Contribute To At-Grade Rail Crossings Alternatives Analysis

Part of Community Effort to Address Increasing Train Traffic Blocking Waterfront

(Edmonds, WA) - The Port of Edmonds Commissioners unanimously voted on Monday, February 23, 2015, to support the City of Edmonds in its pursuit of funds from the State Legislature to commission an analysis of alternatives for the at-grade rail crossings issue at the Edmonds waterfront. The City intends to study several alternatives that could address the issue of increasing train traffic that blocks public, commercial and emergency access to the Edmonds waterfront community, port and ferry terminal, followed by concept design development of a preferred alternative.

"I am delighted to receive the Port's critical support for our request," stated Mayor Dave Earling. "And I am especially grateful for the Commission's offer to contribute \$25,000 to join the City's funds as a local match for the State monies. It is just this kind of cooperation between agencies that shows the State we're ready to take on this serious issue."

"These at-grade crossings have been a topic of discussion at the Port for many years," says Port Commission President David Preston. "On behalf of the Port and my fellow Commissioners, we are looking forward to partnering with the City of Edmonds on this study to identify practical alternatives to the existing situation. We appreciate the leadership and initiative of Mayor Dave Earling toward resolving this serious transportation issue."

Through its delegation in Olympia, the City has requested funding for the alternatives analysis and preliminary design of the selected alternative. The state Senate's draft transportation revenue package, released February 12th and approved by the full Senate today, contains \$1.25 million for the analysis and design.

"We applaud our Senate delegation for working hard to secure this funding in the Senate package," says Mayor Earling. "But I remind everyone that the Senate package is step one of many steps it will take over the next few months to successfully secure state funding for this project."

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