



I-90 Tolling Updates and Work Plan

February 25, 2013

[Agenda]

- 1) Background
- 2) Scoping Letter Summary and HB 1945 Update (Bill Chapman, K&L Gates)
- 3) Draft Work Plan – Action Steps Overview
- 4) Draft Work Plan – Budget
- 5) Public Testimony
- 6) Council Discussion/Approval

[Background]

- January 2 – Briefing by Legislators and WSDOT
 - Overview of EA process
 - Tolling very likely
- January 29 - WSDOT EA Scoping Meeting
 - Very large turnout
- February 2 - Meeting with Former Mayors
 - Tolling likely
 - Build Coalitions
 - Engage fully in EA and MOA process
- February 4 - City Council Meeting
 - Public testimony
 - Re-Affirmed Opposition to Tolls on I-90
 - Directed Staff to Develop Proposed Work Plan in Coordination with Steering Committee
 - Authorized hiring of legal counsel and completion of EA Scoping Letter

[Scoping Letter Overview and HB 1945 Update]

See K&L Gates presentation

Work Plan – Action Steps Overview

1. Form I-90 Steering Committee (√ Completed)

2. Advocate City Interests in EA Process
 - Engage expert legal counsel (√ Completed)
 - Submit EA scoping letter (√ Completed)
 - Advocate for EIS
 - Engage traffic and economic impact experts to advise City and ensure WSDOT analysis is properly conducted
 - Participate as “cooperating agency”
 - Based on community input, prioritize alternatives and mitigation

Work Plan – Action Steps Overview

3. Build Coalitions

- ❑ Meet with elected officials and others across region
- ❑ Participate in I-90 Corridor Executive Advisory Group (1st Meeting – March 7)

4. Conduct Legislative Outreach

- ❑ Hire lobbyist
- ❑ Communicate/coordinate with legislative delegation

5. Address Federal Approval of Tolling

- ❑ Engage expert legal counsel/lobbyist

Work Plan – Action Steps Overview

6. Initiate 1976 MOA Consultation Process
7. Continue Citizen Engagement
 - ❑ Public Engagement Plan
 - ❑ Email Updates to Citizens (√ Completed/On-going - 2600+)
 - ❑ Please Sign Up! Email: I-90TollingInfo@mercergov.org
 - ❑ Update City Web Page (√ Completed/On-going)
8. Develop Communications and Government Affairs Strategy
 - ❑ Engage communication and government affairs expert

[Work Plan - Budget]

- Key Expenditures Under Work Plan
 - Legal Counsel for NEPA Process
 - Legal Counsel/Lobbyist - Federal Approval of Tolling
 - Expert in Economic Impact Analysis
 - Expert in Traffic Analysis
 - Lobbyist (State Legislature)
 - Government Affairs and Communications Expert

- Difficult to Establish Precise Budget at this Time
 - Working to identify consultants and secure cost estimates
 - Scope uncertainty

[Work Plan - Budget]

- \$150,000 from Contingency Fund
- Expenditure authorization necessary to allow work to proceed promptly
- Will provide defined budget to Council as project develops

[Questions?]

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[I-90 Tolling – Public Testimony]

[Council Discussion and Action]

1. Approve Work Plan?
2. Authorize Expenditure Authority?