

DRAFT

September 11, 2006

Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive
Whatcom County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038

Subject: Concerns Related Birch Point Road Detour and Increased Traffic on Lincoln Road

Dear Mr. Kremen,

It has come to our attention that a detour is being planned to facilitate re-construction of a portion of Birch Point Road to support the Horizon's development. This detour proposes to redirect traffic onto the City's Semiahmoo Parkway and down the hill to Shintaffer Rd and from there back to Birch Point Rd for a period of between two and three weeks. It is my understanding that a closure of the Birch Point Road is required to provide a secondary access to Horizons (primary access is off Semiahmoo Parkway) and also to prepare for the eventual realignment for the connector to Shintaffer to be completed later with the construction of Horizon's Village.

My concern, expressed on the behalf of the residents of our community, is that this detour is going to limit access to all of Birch Point to a single road and also direct substantial traffic onto Lincoln Road which, as you are well aware, has been the subject of considerable concerns about safety under the currently traffic loading. I question why this cannot be delayed until Drayton Harbor Road is reopened. The residential community that is driving this detour will not have any homes constructed that need the access until late next summer. Moving forward with this detour will limit the entire Birch Point (over 2800 acres) to a single vehicle access for as long as three weeks which seems to be a high risk venture should there be any blockage of the road concurrent with any other need for emergency vehicle access anywhere else on the point. It seems like this detour could certainly wait until Drayton Harbor Road is repaired and available as a secondary access in case of emergency. There just doesn't seem to be any urgency here that would not allow this detour to be delayed until Drayton Harbor Road has been re-opened.

Sincerely,

Mike Myers
Mayor

cc: Jeffrey Monsen, P. E., Director, Whatcom County Public Works
Joe Rutan, P.E., County Roads Engineer, Whatcom County Public Works