

CITY OF BLAINE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION
MEETING DATE: August 27, 2007

SUBJECT: WSDOT Construction Noise Waiver Request

SUBMITTING DEPT: Public Works

PREPARED BY: _____
(Digital Signature)

AGENDA LOCATION: Comments/Communications; Consent; Committee Reports
 Unfinished Business; Council Action Items; Public Hearing; Standing Committees

ATTACHMENTS: 1. August 10, 2007 request from WSDOT
2. Resolution No. 1470-07

ANALYSIS / SUMMARY: Reconstruction of SR 543 includes Portland Cement Concrete Paving (PCCP) operations. A portion of this work was completed in June, and the second phase is scheduled for September 4 through September 24. PCCP requires that the concrete be poured, then cut to accommodate weather-related shrinkage and expansion. Because cutting cannot be scheduled until the cement is properly cured, and because curing time varies with weather conditions, flexibility in the cutting schedule is necessary. Because it may be necessary to perform sawcutting operations during hours normally restricted for construction noise, WSDOT has requested a waiver, with conditions, as described in the attached letter.

RECOMMENDATION: Waive 2nd Reading: Staff recommends that the City Council approve this construction noise waiver request with conditions as noted in attached Resolution No. 1470-07.

FISCAL ANALYSIS: No impact.

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)

COUNCIL ACTION:

Approved Denied Tabled/Deferred Assigned to: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

Northwest Region
Project Engineer's Office
460 Stuart Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

(360) 788-7400
www.wsdot.wa.gov

August 10, 2007

Richard Myers, Mayor
City of Blaine
344 H Street
Blaine WA 98230

SR 543, MP 0.20 to MP 1.09
I-5 to International Boundary
Widening & Border X-ing Improvements
Contract 7064
Temporary Nighttime Noise Variance

Dear Mayor Myers:

The purpose of this letter is to request a temporary noise variance for the above Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project from the City of Blaine. With this we are requesting temporary relief from the requirement of Washington Administrative Code 173-60-040 through the approval of a noise variance as allowed under WAC 173-60-080 and Blaine Municipal Code 8.10.010. This variance is requested in relation to Portland Cement Concrete Paving (PCCP) operations. This activity is shown to last about 52 work days, based on the current schedule. This work will occur throughout the remainder of the project. The first phase of this work occurred last June and we are expected to start the second, 20 day phase, of concreting on September 4, 2007.

As noted this variance is specifically requested for the PCCP operation. PCC expands and contracts with the temperature and weather. As such we consider this a jointed pavement and place joints and reinforcing to allow this to occur at about 15' intervals, in a controlled manner. These joints are created by sawcutting. The timing of this sawcutting is critical. If we sawcut too early then the pavement is still green and the saw will tend to chew the pavement rather than create a joint for movement to occur. If we wait too long then the pavement will have already created its own joint(s), but at a location not planned for. In either of the two previous cases unplanned cracking and jointing will lead to premature failure of the pavement. Through proper jointing we can create a pavement that is long lasting with a minimum of maintenance concerns that could last up to 50 years. If we have unplanned joints/cracking it could mean premature failure leading to impacts to traffic and costs at a much sooner period than planned.

Typically sawcutting occurs at about 12 hours after the placement of the concrete, but this is very approximate. Depending on outside conditions such as humidity, temperature and wind sawcutting must be accelerated or delayed from that point. A typical day would consist of placement starting at 7am and ending about 10 hours later. Sawcutting would

roughly start about 7pm, but could be delayed until midnight or beyond depending on the weather. This operation would then typically carry on for about 6 hours per day.

This work will all occur between H Street and the Canadian Border on SR 543. As such most of the impacted residences are now protected by noise wall or this work will occur inside our new depression so impacts to residences can be minimized.

Typical equipment for this operation would be 1 to 2 "walk behind" concrete saw(s) and 1 to 2 pickup trucks.

Again the this second phase of the operation is expected to commence the week of September 4, 2007 and last for about 20 work days. The start date, durations and timing of the sawcutting is extremely weather dependent.

Mitigation

We propose the following measures to minimize the noise related impacts of this project during nighttime hours (7:00pm to 7:00am)

1. All vehicles shall be equipped with ambient sensitive backup warning devices to the extent allowed or required by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.
2. A 24-hour WSDOT complaint number as well as a list of designated contact persons shall be provided to the city for the purpose of forwarding complaints.
3. Lighting used for nighttime work shall be directed away or shielded from oncoming traffic and residences.
4. We will notify the residences along 12th and 14th Avenues of the planned activities.
5. One mitigation measure that was discussed but not implemented was to delay the start of the concrete operations so that sawcutting could be done at a less intrusive hour. (i.e. not between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM) This proposal was not pursued due to the weather dependency of this operation. Some days sawcutting could be delayed 8 hours to the time for sawcutting from the actual concrete placement and other days it may be 20 hours. This is a highly variable time based on weather conditions and properties of the concrete received that day. In addition delaying the start of concrete operations could impact the amount of work done in any day and therefore lengthen the contract time thereby impacting traffic for longer periods and incurring added costs to the contract.

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I am the Construction Project Engineer for this project and can be contacted at:

460 Stuart Road
Bellingham WA 98226
Ph 360-788-7400

Should construction activities associated with this project cause noise impacts and a noise complaint is received, we request that you help us resolve it by notifying me within 24 hours of the occurrence.

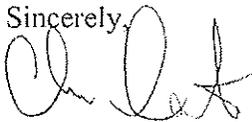
Please indicate your approval of the Departments request for a variance from the requirements of WAC 173-60-040 and Municipal Code 8.10.010, allowing WSDOT to conduct construction work between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM, for this project by signing this correspondence at the point below and returning to me.

Richard Myers
Mayor, City of Blaine

Date

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at 360-788-7400.

Sincerely,



Chris Damitio, P. E.
Project Engineer, Bellingham
Washington State Department of Transportation

cc: Foster, MS 210
C7064 File

Resolution No. 1470-07

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY
CONSTRUCTION NOISE WAIVER FOR WSDOT
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE
PAVING AND SAWCUTTING WORK INCLUDED
IN THE SR 543 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, Title 8 of the Blaine Municipal Code defines construction noise as a nuisance and restricts construction noise hours to mitigate impacts of such nuisance, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recognized that the time limitations generally imposed in Title 8 at Section 8.10.010 may impede certain types of construction from time to time, and on June 25, 2007 enacted Ordinance No. 07-2667 to allow for limited waiver of such time restrictions where the public interest is served, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has requested a construction noise waiver to facilitate Portland Cement Concrete Paving (PCCP) operations beginning September 4 and continuing for about 20 days, between H Street and the Canadian Border on SR 543, and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the special scheduling requirements for PCCP installation and sawcutting as outlined in the August 10, 2007 noise waiver request from Chris Damitio, Project Engineer,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, THAT:**

The City of Blaine, by this resolution, grants a construction noise waiver to WSDOT for PCCP installation and sawcutting operations beginning September 4 and continuing for about 20 days, between H Street and the Canadian Border on SR 543, with the following mitigation measures:

1. All vehicles shall be equipped with ambient sensitive backup warning devices to the extent allowed or required by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries;
2. The 24-hour WSDOT complaint number, as well as a list of designated contact persons, shall be provided to the City for the purpose of forwarding complaints;
3. Lighting used for nighttime work shall be directed away or shielded from oncoming traffic and residences; and
4. WSDOT shall notify residents along 12th and 14th Streets of the planned activities.

Should the noise associated with this construction be determined to be in violation of WAC 173-60 standards, Council authorizes the City Manager to require additional mitigation measures, or to cancel the waiver.

PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington and approved by the Mayor on this 27th day of August, 2007.

MIKE MYERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

SHERI SANCHEZ, City Clerk