

# SR 14/DOG MOUNTAIN CONGESTION AND SAFETY PLANS

Key Stakeholder Meeting #1 | January 21, 2021, 9:00 – 10:00 AM

WA DOT 14(4), Congestion and Safety Mitigation Plan  
WA DOT 14(3), Dog Mountain Trailhead Study

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## Discussion

### Welcome

Angela Rogge, David Evans and Associates, Inc. (DEA) kicked off the meeting by welcoming the large group of stakeholders and introducing the planning study. DEA is leading the Consultant team with public involvement assistance from EnviroIssues. The study is funded through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and includes a partnership with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop a congestion and safety plan for SR 14 and the Dog Mountain Trailhead to reduce congestion and improve safety in the corridor.

The Core Project Team (CPT) includes:

- Angela Rogge (DEA, Consultant PM): [angela.rogge@deainc.com](mailto:angela.rogge@deainc.com), 503-499-0566
- Seth English-Young (WFL FHWA, Contracting Officer): [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov), 360-619-7803
- Stan Hinatsu (USFS): [stan.hinatsu@usda.gov](mailto:stan.hinatsu@usda.gov)
- Laurie Lebowsky (WSDOT): [LEBOWSL@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:LEBOWSL@wsdot.wa.gov)

### Background

- Seth mentioned the project is the result of two applications to the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).
- FLAP was established in 23 U.S.C. 204 to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands.
- FLAP supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

### Roles and Responsibilities

The Core Project Team (CPT) is the final decision-maker for this planning process, but will need the cooperation and **feedback** from the Key Stakeholders:

- |                         |                        |                        |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • USACE                 | • Clark Co. Sheriff    | • MCEDD                | Tribe and the         |
| • USFWS                 | • RTC                  | • CAT                  | Confederated Tribes   |
| • WA State Parks        | • CRG Commission       | • C-Tran               | of Umatilla Indian    |
| • Clark Co.             | • BPA                  | • ODOT                 | Reservation.          |
| • Klickitat Co.         | • Cities: Lyle, North  | • Friends of the       | Confederated Tribes   |
| • Skamania Co.          | Bonneville,            | Columbia River         | of the Grand Ronde,   |
| • Port of Klickitat     | Stevenson,             | Gorge                  | the Cowlitz Tribe and |
| • Port of Skamania      | Washougal, White       | • Tribes: Confederated | the Siletz Tribe      |
| • WA State Patrol       | Salmon, Bingen,        | Tribes of the Warm     |                       |
| • Skamania Co. Sheriff  | Dallesport             | Springs, and Yakama    |                       |
| • Klickitat Co. Sheriff | • CRG Tourism Alliance | Nation, Nez Perce      |                       |

The CPT wants to reiterate the importance of Stakeholder feedback. We will use information gathered in the discussion/chat feature and through future communications to guide the development of strategies and identification of potential paths to implementation and jurisdictional cooperation.

### **Existing Conditions Review / Chat Box Feedback**

As Angela reviewed the project goals and existing conditions, the group presented questions or feedback on the content:

<b>Time Stamp</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
9:20:10	From Patty : Climate Change mitigation - seems to be a big focus of this new Federal administration as well as Gov Inslee. Is climate change mitigation part of your goals? How will you assess strategies as they relate to this and other goals?	Indirectly -- it is not a specific goal, but strategies will be evaluated based on criteria developed from the project goals, which include managing congestion, access (multimodal component) and resource protection.
9:22:36	From Dale Robins, RTC : Cape Horn Viewing area should be added.	Good catch. Will clarify this is a location with recurring congestion/safety concerns.
9:23:30	From Kathy - MCEDD : I recognize that the goals don't include providing equitable access, but how are you addressing not making the equity issues any worse than they already are?	Noted; one of the biggest barriers to equity is getting to the CRGNSA (access). Will be part of evaluation criteria for access.
9:24:30	From Kathy - MCEDD : How will this plan align with the future Climate Change chapter of the Management Plan?	The SR 14/DM Plan will coordination with the Management Plan; evaluation criteria for strategies will include managing congestion, access (multimodal component) and resource protection.  Note from Aiden Forsi (1/21/21 email): "Regarding the Management Plan's Climate Change chapter, that's primarily policy statements that are informing the development of a full Climate Change Action Plan and other actions within the purview of the Act and Management Plan – the chapter itself in the Management Plan is more of a commitment to those actions."
9:24:38	From Skamania County : Thanks for having Cape Horn Trailhead on here. For reference, there are consistently many more vehicles on the county roads than are spaces in the parking lot.	Noted.
9:25:11	From Patty : Are you aware that the region is engaged with a regional transit strategy? Will this information and associated recommendations become part of this plan?	Yes. Members of our Core Project Team (Laurie and Stan) will be involved in some capacity and will coordinate between the two plans/studies.
9:25:54	From Emily Reed   Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance : Will this process be addressing bike traffic?	Strategies will likely benefit bicycle users. Recurring concerns along SR 14 and at recreation sites will be the focus of the study.

Time Stamp	Comment	Response
9:27:33	From Tom Lannen : Is any thought being given to downtown Stevenson? As tourist travel continues to increase the downtown portion is extremely tight.	Focus will be on access to federal lands, but strategies could be implemented in downtown. If there is a specific connection between downtown and federal lands, future connections could be possible.
9:27:43	From Dale Robins, RTC : There are also several wind surfing sites, that can create conflicts on SR-14.	Noted. Conversation with the CPT noted that Doug's Beach has improved in recent years, but Swell City/hatchery and Klickitat Spit remain a concern.
9:30:47	From Renee Tkach : Also the climbing wall called Ozone or The Dog Pound is increasingly becoming crowded and dangerous parking is happening. As well as climbers parking in the truck passing lane.	Plan could develop options to consider how to manage this informal site located on WSDOT/USFS lands.
9:32:56	From Emily Reed   Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance : Thank you	Noted.
9:33:07	From Mike Beck : Changes to the Dog Mountain trailhead or relocating trailhead access will be constrained by the Recreation Intensity Classes set by the Gorge Commission and regulated by Skamania County during project review under SCC Title 22.	Noted; project team is aware of RIC and various land owners. Existing parking lot straddles different RIC classifications and ROW.
9:37:08	From Patty : Thanks Laurie, It might be helpful to have a sub group of those with a specific interest in transportation options (bikes, transit, ped access, etc.) to talk about some of those elements the plan is looking at, and/or allow providers and others to identify options that you might not have thought about. We are concerned that in the past such congestion studies, particularly in rural areas are focused on capital investments and have not taken these options as seriously as other more costly solutions.	We will be looking at various types of strategies other than capital investment. Although we do not anticipate a formal sub-group, the project will coordinate with the Regional Transit study and look to the Key Stakeholder group to provide feedback.
9:42:47	From Kathy - MCEDD : Will you be able to engage the Gorge TransLink Alliance as a focus group?	See above comment response.
9:46:07	From seth.english-young : Thank you everyone for your comments. What I'd like to do is take all these comments and consider and follow-up after this meeting.	Noted.
9:46:12	From Dale Robins, RTC : Will you be reviewing the SR-14 Plan completed in the 1990s?	We have a copy of this plan and have been referencing it for existing conditions review. DEA has tracked down many of the original files.
9:47:33	From Kathy - MCEDD : It's still a very relevant plan!	Noted.

Time Stamp	Comment	Response
9:50:24	From Mike Beck : As a recreational user, 4 foot shoulders wherever possible along SR`14 would be a vast improvement.	Noted.
9:51:09	From Kathy - MCEDD : Surprised not to see equity as a goal or combined with access: equitable access.	Although not a specific goal, can be included as part of the evaluation criteria under the access goal.
9:51:21	From Dale Robins, RTC : Unstable slopes.	Noted for existing conditions.
9:54:23	From Kathy - MCEDD : January 26	Noted
9:54:23	From Sophie Miller Skamania Co Senior Services : January 26th at 1pm	Noted – at least one member of the CPT for the SR14/DM Plan is expected to attend.
9:54:48	From Theresa Conley - ODOT : Gorge Transit Strategy Working Group Meeting next week, Tuesday from 1-3pm!	
9:55:09	From Kathy - MCEDD : If anyone wants to attend, I can send a meeting link.	
9:55:20	From Kathy - MCEDD : Kathy@mcedd.org	
9:56:01	From Kathy - MCEDD : You can find all of the Strategy materials: gorgetranslink.com under the Strategy Tab.	Noted.
9:57:07	From Kathy - MCEDD : The Management Plan hasn't developed their Climate Chapter yet, but this plan should align with it.	Noted. Will coordinate with Gorge Commission.
10:01:15	From Kathy - MCEDD : One of the project goals of the Gorge Regional Transit Strategy is to align with concurrent planning processes. Hope that we can connect!	Noted.

### Next Steps

The project team will begin identifying strategies for further vetting. If the current schedule holds, the next stakeholder meeting is anticipated to be held later this spring (late April/early May).

**SR 14:** Look at range of potential strategies that can be applied throughout the corridor and at spot locations.

**Dog Mountain:** Understand limitations of existing site and explore options for trail relocation.

#### Concept Evaluation:

- Identify:
  - Risks/Tradeoffs
  - Applicability to SR 14 and regulatory environment
  - Anticipated safety benefit
  - Potential conflicts with the land use code and CRGNSA Management Plan requirements
  - Planning-level cost estimates
- Measure against goals/objectives

Attachments: Key Stakeholder Meeting #1 PowerPoint presentation slides.