

# **HARBOUR REACH CORRIDOR PROJECT GRAND OPENING**

Today we are celebrating a way to make our city feel like one neighborhood. Our residents on Beverly Park Road can now access our community as conveniently as anyone in Harbour Pointe, and our residents here in Harbour Pointe are now able to avoid a congested Speedway, or choose to walk or bike, to reach destinations outside the City. We are now more connected, and safer, than ever before.

I think a bit of a history lesson is always important even as we think about the future. 107 years ago another important road was opened that also connected our community.

It was August 5, 1914 when our community celebrated the opening of what is today the Mukilteo Boulevard, and what was known then as the Mukilteo Everett Road.

In a year where there may have been just a handful of cars owned in the Mukilteo area, it was quite a sight to see fifty cars

form a parade of visitors. Four thousand pounds of clams as well as bushels of potatoes and green corn were skillfully prepared by Mukilteo longshoremen and offered in a generous clambake. I know.. I almost didn't mention that part, but hopefully the ice cream is a relief on this record setting hot day!

County pioneers, including Mukilteo's Louisa Fowler Sinclair attended. Some hadn't seen each other in years. Today, I know it will not be a question of years since our residents on Beverly Park Road have visited the rest of the City. However, we still have a much better connection between our neighborhoods, reducing travel time to important City services, our schools, and community assets like the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club. It will also be much easier to walk and bike to these destinations.

Today, you have to be a little brave to do the 15 minute bike ride between those neighborhoods and the library or YMCA. In two years, you'll be able to do it in 10 minutes with real bike facilities to keep you safe.

Just like today, it was a complicated road to build. We completed two 40 foot high stream crossings; in the 1910's

they had many hills and valleys, a winding shoreline, and the need to span seven steep gullies. The Mukilteo Everett Road had been discussed since the 1860's, and appropriations were made in the early 1900's. And, the project wasn't totally finished in 1913: Works projects during the Great Depression included tree planting and concrete retention walls that line the boulevard at Everett's Forest Park. We have finished our road, including planting 200 new trees, building 39,000 square feet of retaining walls, and one item that they definitely were not thinking about in 1914. We built a stormwater vault the size of two basketball courts, down the road just before the roundabout at South Road. A 160,000-pound crane with a 200 foot boom lifted that vault into place. 200 feet sounds tall.. and it is: that's a little taller than the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Cinderella Castle in Disney World, and almost the length of a 747 wingspan!

Our new road will take you 1 mile in that direction, in our first city-owned buffered bike lanes, along a beautiful sidewalk with benches and overlooks into the Picnic Point Creek headwaters.

It took a significant partnership to get us here today. City transportation funds and state grants came together to make this project a reality.

Our first conceptual study was finished 15 years ago, in 2005. I remember thinking as a new Councilmember that it seemed impossible to ever make this road happen. Where would our small city find over 15 million dollars to build this key connection?

But, we took small slow steps, and then some very big fast ones! We first obtained the property for this road in 2008; and thanks to our state delegation, Senator Marko Lias and Representatives Strom Peterson and Lillian Ortiz-Self, in 2015 we benefited from a Washington State Transportation Connecting Washington grant of \$15m. We have used this over the last few years to complete the design, and finally, the actual construction, finishing this new road, sidewalk and bike path. It took more than that, of course, so thank you to the Transportation Improvement Board for directing a grant to the City for this project. In addition, we used transportation impact

fees paid by new development over many years. A large portion included \$1m from Paine Field.

We have many people to thank today, who all played a part in this project. We appreciate the design team, led by Lochner & team of subconsultants. You'll hear from our lead construction contractor KLB Construction, a local company that we were pleased to work with. Perteet made sure that construction stayed on track, through their management & inspection oversight.

Many city staff have been a part of the Harbour Reach Corridor project. First off, the main Project Manager, Randall Robertsssss! He was dedicated through the design and construction of this project, and successfully managed one of (if not THE largest) the largest projects the City has ever constructed. His tireless efforts delivered the project on-time and on-budget! Before him, past project manager Robert Roman led the start of the design efforts.

Past Planning and Public Works Directors & Staff helped paved the way, from our first vision of this project to securing the

right of way and the funding for the project. I want to thank Patricia Love, Rob McGaughey, Mick Matheson, Glen Pickus, Heather McCartney, Larry Waters, and Tom Hansen. Our current directors, Dave Osaki and Andrea Swisstack are amazing, and have done hard work to ensure we were successful.

Finance Department Staff & WSDOT Local Programs Staff (specifically Renae Larsen) made sure grant billings were timely, correct and provided support throughout the project.

We appreciate the partnership we had both with Travis Industries and Boeing – Boeing provided that early right of way, and they both provided easements to facilitate construction and save on construction costs. Travis was a great neighbor throughout the work of the project .

We appreciate the direct neighbors who had to experience the impacts of construction and the uncertainty of what the project will really mean for them. That includes residents of Pacific Place, Possession Bay, Faire Harbour, and Crown Park.

Thanks to Alderwood Water & Wastewater District – who with the City was able to facilitate the installation of their utilities by the project’s contractor.

Thanks to Snohomish County Staff - they provided assistance with construction reviews, traffic signal operations, and coordination of the end of the project at Beverly Park Road where it ties into the County owned 132nd St SW. They will be installing some speed radar signs on 132<sup>nd</sup> next week. So, if you take Harbour Reach and head straight past Beverly, remember that you are driving by our neighbor’s homes, and take care to observe the speed limit!

Thanks also to Snohomish County PUD, including Brenda White. I appreciate their assistance with accelerating the utility relocation efforts as we reached the very end of our work!

And finally, thanks to Vinyl Lab NW in Mukilteo for the banners that probably helped notify you all about this event today!

I am so proud of Harbour Reach Corridor and what it means for our community. I think you'll come to love the pleasant boulevard drive, the beautiful sidewalks and the safe bike lane. We can leave this stretch of the Mukilteo Speedway for this zipping through our community for other destinations. From today forward, our City now has a beautiful new connection.

We have a few other speakers who will share in this celebration! You'll hear from our Senator Marko Liias, Bill Grady of KLB Construction, and first, Council President Sarah Kneller.

After the program, we'll cut that ribbon and take a short walk or bike ride down the new road! Our main group will turn around at least at the round about, though you are welcome to move to the sidewalks as it gets closer to 12pm when we want to open the road for cars.