

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
In-Person and Webex
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

August 23, 2021

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, and Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz.

Others In-Person: Mark Cook, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Dan Carlson, Community Development Services; Hilary Jensen, Member of the Public

Others Virtual: Candie Leader, Public Works; Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; (5) Members of the Public.

At 1:38 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

2021 DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Mark Cook updated the Board of County Commissioners on the status of drought conditions expected to affect our region's local wells and water sources. Mark Cook stated that Public Works needs to explore policy formation and the options for the county as a water purveyor for cisterns and source for self-haul domestic water. Staff was directed to pursue drafting a policy.

YAKIMA RIVER ACCESS AT SOUTH THORP HIGHWAY

Mark Cook informed the Board that due to ownership changes at the KOA private access to the Yakima River has restricted River Guides from use. Mark Cook stated that local guides have asked for use of an access site owned by Public Works at the Dyer Pit off South Thorp Highway. Mark Cook continued that staff is looking for direction in possible development of a licensing process for allowing use, and updates to the access point. Staff was directed to bring forward a proposal including the benefits of licensing development, and how site restrictions would be implemented. Mark Cook added that he will work with the Prosecuting Attorney's office for assistance in development of said licensing agreement

I-90 EXIT 70 TO I-90 EXIT 85 PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE 1

Mark Cook gave background on the work and discussions had on the traffic impacts from I-90. Mark Cook stated that staff worked with the Ferguson Group to request legislative funds to add three (3) lanes to I-90. Mark Cook continued that staff's request was not

approved because the project is not listed on the State Transportation Improvement Plan. Mark Cook added that staff researched how to get the project listed and Kittitas County needs to allocate funds before it will be added. Mark Cook requested direction on setting aside funding for the I-90 improvements from Exit 70 to Exit 85 to be placed on the 2022 State Transportation Improvement Plan. Mark Cook stated that funding options could include the Road fund to begin initial design. Staff was directed to do an inventory of possible funding sources and return for a discussion.

AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS

Mark Cook gave background on the research he conducted on the use of traffic safety cameras in Washington State. Mark Cook stated that currently the use is restricted. Mark Cook inquired on the interest in approaching State Representatives to begin initial phases of legislation to allow camera use for speed enforcement in Kittitas County. Vice Chairman Laura Osiadacz stated she has reached out to Representative Tom Dent for a discussion on this issue.

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Mark Cook informed the Board of County Commissioners that Public Works has been accepted as a presenter at the APWA Conference in Yakima, Washington. Mark Cook stated that Nicole Ogan, Environmental Transportation Planner will be presenting with Fehr and Peers on the challenges of rural traffic control along I-90 bypass roads, and introduction of STEER I-90 to a larger audience. Vice Chairman Osiadacz requests a link to view the presentation at the conference if one is provided after the conference

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman