



City of Des Moines

ADMINISTRATION
21630 11TH AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE A
DES MOINES, WASHINGTON 98198-6398
(206) 878-4595 T.D.D.: (206) 824-6024 FAX: (206) 870-6540



April 28, 2009

Ms. Paula Hammond, PE
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
PO Box 47300
Olympia WA 98504-7300

Re: Historic SR 509 Right of Way
Transfer to the City of Des Moines for Road and Transportation Purposes

Dear Secretary Hammond:

I am writing to request that Washington State Department of Transportation transfer ownership of the historic SR 509 right of way, between South 216th Street and Kent-Des Moines Road, to the City of Des Moines for road, transportation and other public uses. The City of Des Moines has just completed an assessment of the Highest and Best Use for this right of way that cuts through the middle of the City of Des Moines as illustrated in the attached study. The attached report concludes that:

- The historic SR 509 right of way is an isolated section of undeveloped and unopened right of way that has limited use, if any, as part of the regional SR 509 facility.
- WSDOT plans for the SR 509 Project do not include this segment of historic right of way.
- Of the 43.42 acres of right of way, approximately 50% is designated as critical area.
- There is no opportunity to design or construct a road through the length of the corridor because of the amount of critical area and other environmental constraints.
- Within the three segments of the historic right of way (see Illustrations 1-4), only Segment 1 could be improved to include a street connection between South 216th and South 220th Streets, providing an important street extension of 16th Avenue South.
- A multipurpose trail could also be constructed along the entire length of the historic right of way from South 216th Street to Kent-Des Moines Road, providing an important north-south non-motorized transportation link in Des Moines.
- The conceptual layout presented in this analysis (see Illustrations 1-4) represents the only likely and feasible transportation use of the historic SR 509 right of way corridor.

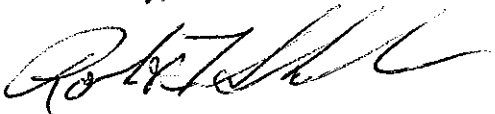
Based on the conclusions and recommendations of the study, as shown in the attached Illustrations 1-4, we propose to extend 16th Avenue South a quarter-mile from South 220th to South 216th to complete this important collector street connection in our street network, providing another north-south route through our City. We also propose to develop Barnes Creek Trail, a multipurpose trail, along the entire length of the historic right-of-way corridor with connections to schools, parks, and the Des Moines Creek Trail, a regional facility and to provide for stormwater management for streets and other neighborhood connections.

Since the current design and plans for the SR 509 Project do not utilize this historic corridor, WSDOT has no plans to improve this unopened right of way, and this isolated segment of the corridor has no strategic value to the State as a transportation corridor, The City of Des Moines requests that it be turned back to the local jurisdiction to be used for road and transportation purposes, while protecting the identified critical areas within this corridor.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact City Manager Tony Piasecki at (206) 870-6550 or our management lead, Dan Brewer, Transportation Manager, at (206) 870-6581 or by e-mail at dbrewer@desmoineswa.gov.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Bob Sheckler
Mayor

Attachments: Illustrations 1-4, *Highest and Best Use Analysis of Historic SR 509 Corridor*, Fehr & Peers- Mirai, 2009

c: Senator Karen Keiser
Representative Dave Upthegrove
Representative Tina Orwall
Senator Tracey Eide
Representative Mark Miloscia
Representative Skip Priest
Des Moines City Council Members
Tony Piasecki, City Manager
Grant Fredricks, Planning, Building, and Public Works Director
Dan Brewer, Transportation Manager
Susan Everett, SR 509 Project Manager