



Washington State  
Department of Transportation  
Paula J. Harmons, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation

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June 3, 2009

The Honorable Bob Sheckler  
Mayor, City of Des Moines  
21630 – 11th Avenue South, Suite "A"  
Des Moines, WA 98196-6398

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

Dear Mayor Sheckler:

Thank you for your letter requesting the transfer of 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.

Buying, exchanging and acquiring State highway property is addressed in statutes contained in Chapter 47.12 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Transferring state-owned right-of-way is addressed in RCW 47.12.063, the Surplus Real Property Program. This program allows the State to surplus and exchange unneeded state-owned highway property to a city if it is in the public's best interest and if the property is used to improve public highways, county roads or city streets.

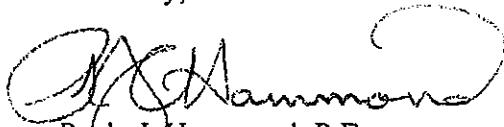
Based on your requested use of the property, WSDOT may be able to exchange the property without compensation if used for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair and betterment of city streets, as detailed in the 18th Amendment of the State Constitution. Trails may be allowed without compensation, for the trail footprint area, but this depends on whether the trail benefit drivers by significantly increasing roadway safety. WSDOT will need supporting documentation related to the proposed trail uses to make such a determination about improved motorist safety.

As you will note, this is a very involved process and it would be beneficial if my staff and yours meet to discuss details and outline the process. Therefore, WSDOT staff will be contacting you soon regarding the process from this point forward.

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In closing, we thank you for your City's continuing participation in the I-5 / SR 509 project and for this request. We will give your request our fullest attention. For further information, please contact Jason Biggs P.E., Project Engineer, at 206.768.5803 or Susan Everett P.E., Project Manger, at 206.464.1215.

Sincerely,



Paula J. Hammond, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation

PJH:jaa

cc: 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  
Jason Biggs, SR 509 Project Engineer