

Appendix C

Miller Bay Corridor

Transportation Corridor Planning Analysis

Lead Sponsor Agency: Kitsap County

Partnership Agencies Involved: Suquamish Tribe, WSDOT, Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, Kitsap Transit, Indianola Community, Suquamish Community, Kingston Community and City of Bainbridge Island.

This Rural Corridors planning study is designed to assess the ability of the Miller Bay communities to protect their rural areas and village centers from the impact of high volumes of pass-through traffic. There are numerous issues associated with the Miller Bay Corridor, but primarily the communities are focused on safety, revitalization of town centers and the development of non-motorized facilities.

The three communities along the Miller Bay Corridor are unique; Kingston is the gateway to the Olympic Peninsula and is often affected by ferry surges. Indianola is a quaint, eclectic community that is content to be a bit 'isolated' from automotive dependent uses, but wishes to have strong non-motorized opportunities. Finally, Suquamish is strongly identified with the Suquamish Tribe and wishes to restore their downtown while promoting a safe, walkable community.

Suquamish is a community that is significantly impacted by Miller Bay Road, as the corridor bisects the community through its downtown. This impact has limited the ability to redevelop a 'main street' concept as well as provide walkability throughout the community. Students are regularly driven to school, as it is not safe to walk the narrow streets. This action has caused congestion not only on Augusta Ave, the main thoroughfare, but also on several side streets that lead to the elementary school. Additionally, Kitsap Transit runs between 30 and 50 buses a day on these same roads, obviously adding to conflicts with school buses, pedestrians and parents taking their children to school at peak times.

This study would explore urban amenities that would minimize the impact of the traffic within the four to five blocks that comprise the downtown, while offering enticements to shop and trade in a redeveloped community. The community welcomes the idea of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, a gateway possibly based on a tribal theme, lighting at crossroads, and the development of the 'slab', a non-distinct block with superb views of Seattle and Puget Sound, into a community gathering place of celebration. It is noteworthy that Chief Sealth's (Seattle) gravesite is located a short distance from the community gathering place.

Community leaders are most interested in safety issues, the redevelopment of the downtown and non-motorized opportunities. The Miller Bay Corridor study would dovetail with previous Suquamish Sub-area plans that called for these kinds of pedestrian amenities throughout the community.

As stated above, all three communities are unique and distinct from each other. The residents of each have strong concepts of their community, and how they want it to develop. However, there are common themes throughout the corridor: trails and paths are very important, safe routes to schools are absolutely necessary, and the sense of community is critical. A Capital Development Plan funded from this Corridors Project would serve to identify unique capital projects that are within the ability of the community, the county and the tribe to develop and fund. This corridor is destined to grow, and at this point in time, it still has the ability to prevent deterioration of the communities due to this growth. Though each community is unique, they are dependent upon the corridor for access to shopping and employment. Improvements along this route will significantly enhance the sense of place that they enjoy while mitigating traffic impacts.