

G.R.I.T. UPDATE - JULY 11, 2006

NOTICE! Block your cell phone number from marketers: The following IMPORTANT item was forwarded to me this morning by a source.

JUST A REMINDER....8 days from today, all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sale calls. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.... To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS OR GO TO: www.donotcall.gov/

SULTAN ISSUES:

Tonight at 7:00 PM, the Sultan's new Planning Board will meet for the first time in their official capacity as Board. (Their agenda is on our website.) They have a tough road ahead of them with many key issues, to join us in welcoming them and wishing them well. The new board consists of the following individuals: George Schmidt, Kurt Latimore, Sara Davenport-Smith, Charles Van Pelt and Jeff Cofer.

Hearings:

Previously-scheduled hearing on the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) plan, originally scheduled for this week's July 13th council meeting, has been CHANGED TO 6:00 PM, July 27th. Also on July 27th is a hearing on Sultan's six-year Transportation Improvement Plan at 6:30 PM.

Hearings on more tax increases Thursday 7/13 (following council member comments) being considered:

- A new city B&O tax -- "...for the privilege of operating a financial institution, manufacturing and doing sales at wholesale within the city."
- Adding a new 6% utility tax on CABLE services.

Executing ordinances on the above actions will have a **FIRST READING** vote. Guesstimates of annual revenue received from the above taxes is in the vicinity of \$120-135,000.

Two other future tax revenue source possibilities still remain: Another increase the REET excise tax by an additional 1/2%, and the City's "Snowball-in-hell" gambit, a voter-approved increase in property taxes. (The full agenda packet, which includes draft ordinances, is attached in Word and pdf formats; full agenda packet is posted on our website).

ALSO ON THE AGENDA is a request for a \$500,000 TIB grant to pay for Phase III of the Sultan Basin Road Project. It is our understanding that Phase III will extend Foundry Drive north to the new Sultan Basin Road intersection. However, there exists some concern that the design may not include an acceptable left turn radius from that southern leg for

large commercial and trucking vehicles wishing to turn westward onto U. S. 2.

In order to "solve" this problem, a reliable source has told us of a conversation he had with City Planner Rick Cisar. The city is planning to provide improved truck access from Cascade View Drive to U. S. 2 westbound, by creating another cross-over, full-signalized intersection just west of the Barmon Lumber facility, using the current Sky Harbor Airport/Hammer property access road, with direct south access to Cascade View Drive. This will facilitate an improved westbound, left-turn access to U. S. 2 using Cascade View Drive, in addition to the Phase III (Foundry Drive) intersection.

In addition to creating yet another major signalized intersection (which is not yet approved -- or even known, we understand -- by WSDOT or other agencies), another problem with Cisar's plan exists. It totally ignores (once again**) Sultan's road design plan which stipulates that roadways needed for new developments located within the LID 97-1 area be fed to and terminate at an east-west access road, aptly named in both the Industrial Park Master Plan and Sultan's Comprehensive Plan, the "East-West Connector." This road was wisely inserted into Sultan's future plans to avoid the problems created by multiple intersection and driveway incursions onto U. S. 2, similar to what has occurred in Monroe and every other city situated on a major state or federal highway.

****Timber Ridge Estates**, currently under construction, will have TWO private roads intersecting Sultan Basin Road's east (northbound) side on its critical slope above Wagley Creek. This is contrary to citizen testimony during hearings re the developer's legal and fiscal responsibilities re constructing or building his portion of the east-west connector road or, at a minimum, contributing financially to its future construction, in order to fulfill the vision of both the Ind. Park Master Plan and Sultan's Comp Plan. That vision was to limit traffic flow disruptions to the Sultan Basin Road -- soon to be a major Sultan thoroughfare - - in order to minimize the "Monroe" effect of multiple driveway and road incursions. **OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST:** Announced via this week's council packet is news that the Sultan Basin Road's southern end will be closed during the Month of August to allow for the Timber Ridge developer to GRIND DOWN the top crest of the SBR hill in order to provide an acceptable sight distance for the residents of the 18 single family homes with exclusive use of that community's northern internal private road. Unfortunately, nothing in the "Conditions of Approval" for this plat specified who would pay for these, and other, needed infrastructure improvements to Sultan Basin Road. Development Condition #19 states only, *"The design for Sultan Basin Road shall be modified to reduce the road grade to improve site distance as specified by the City's traffic engineer consultant and per the approval of the City Engineer."* Unbelievable.

Travel Safely,
Loretta Storm, Co-Founder, www.ittakesgrit.org