

CITY OF CAMAS CAMAS NE LAKE ROAD/NE EVERETT STREET (SR-500) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

INTRODUCTION

The City of Camas is initiating a project to improve the intersection of NE Everett Street (SR 500) and NE Lake Road. As part of the alternatives analysis phase of the project, BergerABAM completed 12 stakeholder interviews from 28 January 2019 to 4 February 2019. City staff asked stakeholders to participate in the interviews via an invitation letter (see Attachment A). The majority of the interviews were conducted in person with two interviews conducted over the phone. Stakeholders that were interviewed represented a range of interests in the project, including the Camas School District, emergency services, adjacent property and business owners, and parks and recreation users. In addition, on 21 and 22 February, City staff spoke to the owner and onsite manager of Lacamas Mobile Village, a mobile home park located near the project. A complete list of those interviewed is included as Attachment B.

A summary of interview responses, organized by question, is included below. Responses are reported in the aggregated to provide anonymity.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

1. *Tell us about yourself, your involvement or interaction with the City, and Camas Community.*

All those interviewed are residents of the City of Camas. Many also work in or for the City and participate on advisory boards or committees. Some interviewees also work for partner agencies and interact with City staff in a professional capacity.

2. *The intersection improvement is intended to relieve congestion, improve safety and provide capacity for growth that is already planned for the area. The City is interested in your experiences and perspective. Respondents were asked the following questions.*
 - a. *How often do you use the Lake Road Everett Street intersection?*
 - b. *What are some of the issues you've experienced with the current intersection?*
 - c. *Do you bicycle or walk through the intersection?*
 - d. *Do you travel through for work, school, shopping, or recreation trips?*
 - e. *Are there special considerations beyond auto, bike and pedestrian traffic that should be addressed?*

The majority of those interviewed use the intersection daily. The particular purpose of the travel through the intersection varied depending on the individual being interviewed. Most trips were related to work, school, or accessing recreation areas. Many respondents also indicated they have experienced delays and congestion associated with traffic from Camas High School and have difficulty turning left from side streets and private property in the project vicinity. Approximately half of those interviewed indicated they walk or bike through the intersection. One stakeholder recommended a close look, including north of the intersection, to consolidate pedestrian crossings. Even those interviewees who do not walk or bike through the intersection indicated they see a great deal of pedestrian traffic in the area, in particular during the summer season.

When asked what special considerations should be addressed, in addition to improving safety for all users (bike, pedestrian, and cars), interviewees indicated reduced speed and increased lighting is needed, as well as a turn lane south of the intersection. It was noted that the City should consider the growth planned in the City and the potential for economic development and employment areas north of Lacamas Lake. Many stakeholders also identified a need for a comprehensive parking strategy to address current parking challenges, including ways to remedy, replace or remove the “informal” on-street parking along Everett Street. Stakeholders also commented on the need to maintain easy access through the intersection and to the adjacent recreation areas for emergency services during all project phases.

3. *Would you consider yourself among those most impacted by the project (live or work nearby or have property near the intersection)? Please explain.*

Approximately half of those interviewed live, own property, or operate a business in the project vicinity. In addition, other respondents drive through the intersection daily commuting to work or school, and some ride or walk through the intersection, as well as seasonally for recreation.

4. *If you have a business or frequent one in the area, what are the most critical components of construction timing that concern you (i.e. staying open for business; avoiding school traffic hours, working to reduce peak commute time delays, seasonal and/or recreational impacts)?*

Minimizing impacts to private property was noted as a key concern during and after construction. In addition, given the significant amount of traffic through this intersection associated with Camas High School, stakeholders indicated peak travel times for school traffic should be avoided to the greatest extent possible; however, seasonal traffic for the adjacent recreation areas should also be a consideration. In general, stakeholders indicated construction staging will be key given the travel demand and constraints associated with this intersection.

5. *Beyond these stakeholder interviews, the public involvement plan includes formation of a Project Advisory Committee (PAC), public open houses, and City Council workshops. What do you think are*

the best ways to reach out to the community to keep them informed? Would you prefer online information, public meetings, mailers, or other methods?

Most stakeholders indicated all possible methods of communication should be used to relay information on this project. In addition to the methods identified in the question, interviewees indicated the City should include public notices and advertisements in the Camas Post-Record.

6. *Do you know of other individuals or groups we should contact and keep informed about the project?*

Prior to asking stakeholders this question, the interviewer provided a general list of those being interviewed. Most stakeholders felt the list was representative of the most impacted stakeholders and good cross section of the community. Stakeholders also identified the importance of the broader outreach tools to gather input from the community at large.

7. *Is there anything else you would like to add?*

In response to this question, stakeholders primarily reiterated their concerns expressed in response to prior questions, including the need to provide adequate access to adjacent private property, addressing parking in the project vicinity, and minimizing construction impacts to property and traffic. It was also noted that communication during construction will be key to keeping the community informed. Impacts are unavoidable, and the community should be given adequate time and information to prepare for potential traffic delays.

ATTACHMENT A. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW INVITATION



Public Works Department

January 24, 2019

To: Project Stakeholders

From: Steve Wall, Public Works Director, City of Camas

Re: Invitation to Take Part in a Stakeholder Interview about Upcoming Improvements to the NW Lake Road/NE Everett Street Intersection in Camas

The City of Camas has begun plans to improve the intersection of NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street (State Route 500), located between Lacamas Lake and Round Lake. As you've likely noticed, community and regional growth has increased traffic, causing safety and mobility concerns for the community. Average daily traffic entering the intersection is well over 15,000. Our hope is to alleviate these challenges – and you're a vital part of the process!

Right now, we're taking a closer look at all the options for making the intersection safer and more efficient for all users. An important step in this process is finding out about the views of valued community members.

Today, we invite you to take part in a stakeholder interview, so we can learn what you think of the current intersection and your hopes for its future improvement.

As a participant, you'll take part in an informal interview that will last 30 to 45 minutes, held by the City's design consultant, PBS Engineering. After all the interviews are complete, PBS will provide the City with an overview of the findings. Though they may offer some quotes, nothing presented will be attributed to any particular person. The findings of this interview process will help guide the project as it moves ahead.

Interviews will be held at Camas City Hall. Some available interview times are:

- Monday, January 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 29, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The City is interested to know what you think! **If you are interested in participating in a stakeholder interview, please respond to Nicole McDermott, BergerABAM, at nicole.mcdermott@abam.com (preferred) or (360) 823-6139 with your availability. Please provide a couple of options within the times indicated above.** If you cannot make any of the dates or times above, just let us know and we will contact you for a telephone interview, as time allows.

Your input will help the City complete this important project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

City of Camas, 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607 | www.cityofcamas.us | 360.817.1561 | Fax: 360.834.1535

ATTACHMENT B. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW LIST

Stakeholders Interviewed	Affiliation
Dr. Jeff Snell	Camas School District
David Ripp	Port of Camas-Washougal and Camas resident
Renee Carroll	Sweetwater SUP Rentals
Matt Ransom	Regional Transportation Council and Camas resident
John Nohr	Camas resident
Cassi Marshall	Camas Parks and Recreation Commission
Emma Cox	Camas Youth Advisory Council
Brent Erikson	Camas Washougal Chamber of Commerce
Chief Mitch Lackey	Camas Police Department
Chief Nick Swinhart	Camas-Washougal Fire Department
Kristine Gano	Adjacent property owner
Manoj Kripalani	Adjacent property owner
Bev Gunderson and John McArthur	Owner, Lacamas Mobile Village
Yvonne Collins	On-Site Manager, Lacamas Mobile Village