



Port Suspends Harbor Drive Project

Bingen, Washington – Just a few days from completion, poor weather and problems with the installation of a wastewater line have forced suspension of the Port's Harbor Drive Improvement Project until Spring 2011. During an inspection of the new wastewater lines, two significant low spots were discovered that could result in future problems if left in their present condition. “We could have pushed through, paved the road, and left this problem as a little surprise for future Port staff,” said Port Executive Director, Marc Thornsby. “But that would have simply put off dealing with the problem until a later date.”

At A Glance...
Who:.....Port of Klickitat
What:.....Harbor Drive Project
When:.....December 6, 2010
Where:.....Bingen, Wash.
Quick Facts: Poor weather and the discovery of low spots in a wastewater line have forced suspension of the Harbor Drive project until Spring 2011.

According to the Port, the contractor will be required to excavate and reinstall, on an improved base, the two sections of wastewater line affected. In most circumstances that wouldn't present much of a challenge, but the fill material at Bingen Point is particularly susceptible to moisture. Combine that with wet winter weather and it becomes nearly impossible to complete the necessary repairs without destroying the road base.

“We are eager to have the project completed and recognize that the continued road closure and detour is an inconvenience,” said Thornsby. “However, six months of inconvenience now is a small price to pay to deliver a quality project that won't require even more troublesome and costly repairs in the future.”

The prime contractor, Granite Northwest, Inc., is slated to return to work on the project as soon as weather permits in early 2011. “We expect to restart construction no later than early May,” said Darrin Eckman of Tenneson Engineering. “However, the exact timing will be dependent on the weather. If we have another wet spring like the last one, it may force us to push that date out a bit farther.” Tenneson Engineering has been involved with developing the grading and infrastructure plans, of which the Harbor Drive Improvement Project is a part, for the Port's Bingen Point properties for several years and is the engineer for this project.

About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was established in 1945. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84.

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