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

Northwest Region
15700 Dayton Avenue North
P.O. Box 330310
Seattle, WA 98133-9710

206-440-4000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

January 12, 2011

The Honorable Melvin R. Sheldon Jr.
Chairman
Tulalip Tribes
6700 Totem Beach Road
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Dear Chairman Sheldon,

We are in receipt of Tulalip Tribes Resolution No. 2010-287 titled "SR 529 Big Flats / 116th Street Interchange," dated August 5, 2010. We understand from this resolution that Tulalip Tribes is asking the State to fund the construction of access improvements at the Interstate 5/116th St NE Interchange in lieu of access improvements to the area known as "Big Flats" located off of SR 529.

Providing access to an area known as "Big Flats" is a commitment the State of Washington made to Tulalip Tribes in a Right of Entry agreement dated September 11, 1970 and a Deed dated April 15, 1971. In 2001, Tulalip Tribes approached the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to discuss implementing this agreement with regards to providing access to "Big Flats." WSDOT responded to this request by letter on October 27th, 2004.

In the October 27, 2004 letter, we committed to include the need for access to the area known as "Big Flats" from SR 529 as an unfunded project in WSDOT's I-1 program. As we agreed, the project was included in our capital project needs list in the amount of $8 million (2004 dollars), but the Legislature has not yet funded the project. As you are aware, WSDOT does not have discretion to fund projects without Legislative action, and therefore have not been able to follow through with a project for access to "Big Flats." We estimate that the value of this commitment to be $14 million in 2013 dollars.

We will seek funding from the Legislature to complete the Interstate 5/116th St NE Interchange in lieu of improvements on SR 529 for access to "Big Flats." Our project needs list will include $42 million as the amount needed to complete the Interstate 5/116th St NE Interchange.

Feel free to contact me at 206 440-4706 or EngL@wsdot.wa.gov if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lorena Eng, P.E.
Regional Administrator

LEE/cg/re/fd

cc: Paula Hammond
Megan Cotton
HQ Government Relations