

Northwest Region Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Council

**Hood Canal Bridge/DOT Planning Meeting**

**June 28, 2006**

**Brinnon Fire Department; Brinnon, WA**

Attendees:

Dave McCarthy	NWREMS	Brian Arcement	PHEPR Region 2
Kim Doyle	Olympic Ambulance	Anice Grant	NWREMS
April Borbon	NWREMS	Bob Herbst	Brinnon FD
Michael Lopez	DOH	Dean Moon	WSDOT
Karen Blore	OMC	John Schonig	Olympic Ambulance
Becky Hixson	WSDOT	Eric Straich	WSDOT
Susan Harris-Lasher	WS Ferries		

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

1. General Project Information

Timeline for Bridge Closure: The Hood Canal Bridge Closure is scheduled to close at the beginning of May 2009. The closure is slated for six weeks but this may be extended due to weather delays. Becky reported that last year's temporary closure in August went very well.

Guiding Principles/Closure Objectives: No report.

Current Project Schedule: Handouts from the DOT of their May monthly report and June update were provided to the group. It is expected that all of the pontoons will be completed by October 2008. The anchors will be set next summer. There are currently no scheduled closures between now and the main closure in 2009. Photos of the current progress being made on the project were also provided. Anyone who is interested in taking a tour of the site can contact Becky.

2. Closure Mitigation Plan

Where WSDOT Is At In the Process: The current mitigation plan is in process. There will be a walk-on ferry between Pt Gamble and South Point. There will also be designated park and rides with bus transportation to and from these areas to the ferries. The team is currently reviewing the previous mitigation plan history and updating cost estimates with regard to the projected construction schedule. They are currently negotiating the lease with Pt Gamble for use of the property for the temporary ferries as well as talking with the ferry system. They are contacting all of the local transit agencies in the area, reviewing environmental permits and finalizing the scope of work. The

Washington State Patrol is working closely with the DOT on this project as well as various Tourism Councils. Prior to the closure, the DOT will install a truck lane at Mt Walker and a traffic light at the intersection of Hwy 3 and Hwy 106. Becky is working with the freight companies on this project. Anice will contact the logging association with information on the project.

Medical Transportation Highlights: Susan discussed the current ferry loading priority plan in regards to medical emergencies. The ferry system uses a tiered system for loading medical patients; she will forward this plan to Anice. She noted that ferries can be held for emergencies but that the patient must be escorted by EMS and the call for assistance needs to come through 911. There was discussion about being able to use the walk-on ferry for transporting patients on gurneys, ensuring some type of privacy for them, and stocking additional ALS supplies on the ferries; these items will be considered. Susan added that the ferry system has a 24 hour operation center and ferries may be used for emergencies after hours if needed. The DOT will provide a non-emergency medical transport system that will include bussing patients from the ferries to medical providers on the Kitsap Peninsula via a reservation system. Kim asked about reimbursement for transportation from the last bridge closure however Becky noted that the DOT will not reimburse for this or assist with getting the Insurance Commissioner on board for this project.

### 3. Medical Transportation Plan for 2009 Closure

How Can We Work Together?: Bob reminded the DOT representatives that there is a big Shrimp Festival in Brinnon during the last week of May which usually brings 10,000 visitors. It was also noted that many of the state parks and national forests in the area are booked years ahead for May and June weekends and that their restrooms are often locked at night; with the additional traffic they may want to consider leaving them unlocked during the closure. Bob added that a huge resort will soon be going in at Blackpoint which will include a golf course, conference center and residential housing; this will also add to the vehicle impact on the area. Susan reported that the ferry system will coordinate their services with this closure and be of any assistance possible during this time, including possibly having more boats on affected runs, offering priority loading for patients with medical emergencies and offering 24 hour emergency service of the ferries if needed. The DOT will provide out-reach to clinics and hospitals in the Region about the closure and transportation alternatives, and will get all final closure information to hospitals, clinics and EMS agencies approximately three months prior to the 2009 closure.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.