DATE: September 4, 2013  
TO: Julie Thompson, Associate Planner  
Community Development & Planning Department  
FROM: Rachel E. Dietzman, P.E., County Engineer  

ISSUE: The projects on the Draft Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Six-Yr TIP) should comply with the overall goals of the Comprehensive Plan and Vision Statement of the County Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational memorandum that illustrates how some of these plans and projects reflect the direction given in the Transportation Element (July 2006) of the Comprehensive Plan.

POLICY: The Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan (Section B, Element 6) establishes goals and policies to guide the County in development of transportation facilities.

KEY POINTS: Section 6.2.A General Goals calls for a safe, reliable, economically feasible, integrated transportation system. The desires and preferences of County residents should be considered – this is accomplished through the annual open house and project specific public meetings. Additionally, stakeholders are sometimes invited to design meetings. There are also public hearings with Council on several projects. The County is a single community of islands with individual islands having unique character and requiring a variety of transportation modes. Development and implementation of County Road Standards will help achieve this goal.

Section 6.2.B Transportation Financing Goals and Policies calls for consideration of the ability of the County to fund projects. Maintenance projects should be prioritized over capital projects. This happens through the Six-Yr TIP process which defines how capital projects are scheduled based on funds available after the maintenance program is defined.

Section 6.4.A Marine Transportation Goals And Policies define the importance of the marine facilities in maintaining quality of life and prioritizes service to island residents. The DRAFT Six-Yr TIP contains two important marine projects which will maintain access from non-ferry served islands and provide recreational opportunities for island residents.

Section 6.5.A Policies for Road Classification, Right-of-Way, Design and Construction calls for the prioritization of county road ends which abut shorelines. The Shore Access program does just that, in a way that considers both the greater need of island residents for water access and the privacy needs of the affected neighbors.

Section 6.5.A Policies for Road Classification, Right-of-Way, Design and Construction also calls for public and stakeholder participation during the design phase of major projects as well as preservation of the significant scenic, rural quality of certain island roads. The employees of Public Works are by and large longstanding county residents with a strong esthetic that honors scenic and rural qualities. Our practice is to provide opportunities for the community to be aware of and comment on our projects.

Section 6.5.F Policies for Bicycles and Mopeds calls for wider road shoulders along arterials. We provide for non-motorized improvements on our busier roads in both the large capital projects such as Orcas Road as well as the Non-Motorized Safety Improvement project.