



Press Release

City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

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To: City Council
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Edmonds Receives State Funding to Study Solutions to Blocked Railroad Crossings

State Legislature Approves \$500,000 for Edmonds Railroad Crossing Alternatives Analysis

Edmonds, WA - It's a critical first step in addressing the issue of increasing train traffic blocking the Edmonds waterfront. The 2015-2017 transportation current law budget passed today by the State Legislature would make \$500,000 available to Edmonds for completion of an Alternatives Analysis study. This budget still must be signed by Governor Inslee. This study will determine the best approach to resolving conflicts with at-grade railroad crossings in downtown Edmonds. The two crossings, at Dayton and Main Streets, are currently blocked by 35-40 trains each day along the city's waterfront. Expected growth in train traffic to more than 100 trains per day by 2030 will make the following conflicts significantly worse:

- o Blocked access for public safety services (police, fire, EMS) to the waterfront.
- o Substantial delays in vehicle loading/unloading at the State Ferry Terminal.
- o Interruption of Community Transit bus service.
- o Blocked access to commercial and industrial businesses, residences and services.
- o Blocked access to City shoreline parks, the Port of Edmonds Marina, an underwater dive park, the Senior Center, and several restaurants.

"This funding will allow us to consider a different future with regard to our at-grade crossings," said Mayor Dave Earling today. "We need to be proactive in looking for solutions to these problems. The current situation is difficult enough but will be intolerable in the near future if we don't start planning now."

The Alternatives Analysis, which will include extensive public outreach, will screen a variety of potential grade separation and other projects looking for an appropriate balance between cost and efficiency in eliminating train conflicts. Once the study is complete, the City will be in position to proceed directly to seek design development, detailed design, and construction funding.

“I want to thank the legislature for their support,” said Mayor Earling. “I would especially like to thank State Senator Marko Lias and Representatives Strom Peterson and Lilian Ortiz-Self for their hard work in convincing both houses of the Legislature of the importance of this work. Additionally, I want to recognize the leadership exhibited by the House Transportation Committee Chair, Representative Judy Clibborn and the Senate Transportation Committee Chair, Senator Curtis King, whose leadership on transportation issues like this one during a very long session has been key to the progress achieved so far.”

The City of Edmonds has committed \$100,000 as a match toward completion of this work. The Port of Edmonds has also committed \$25,000.

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