June 17, 2015

The Honorable Larry Phillips

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

This letter transmits an ordinance that will authorize King County to enter into an interlocal agreement to evaluate developing a non-motorized bridge to connect the Enumclaw Plateau and Foothills Trails. A new bridge would expand recreation and mobility opportunities in South King County.

The proposed agreement is between the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Pierce County, the City of Buckley and the City of Enumclaw (the Parties). Under this agreement, the Division will participate in the preliminary work to assess the feasibility of using the existing State Route 167 Puyallup River Bridge as a non-motorized bridge over the White River. This project addresses the need for a safe pedestrian and cycling corridor; connecting regional trails to surrounding communities for public benefit.

Key components of the agreement are:

* King County, Pierce County, Buckley and Enumclaw conducted a feasibility study (White River Pedestrian Trail Feasibility Study Report – May 2008) which evaluated and selected a proposed alignment for a non-motorized bridge crossing of the White River.
* The Parties have mutually determined that the public interest would be best served by the Parties working collaboratively on funding opportunities for reuse of the existing SR 167 bridge as a non-motorized crossing of the White River.
* The White River Bridge Committee, established prior to 2006, shall serve as a forum and assist in facilitating the administration of this agreement among Parties.
* Once grants or other funding sources have been committed for the White River crossing project, the money will be used for project planning, permitting, design and development work.

This legislation supports the King County Strategic Plan goals by enhancing recreational opportunities for the public with improved access to regional trails, especially residents living in Southeast King County. The Parties to the agreement further support the improvement of pedestrian access to King County’s Enumclaw Plateau Trail that will allow for multiple uses and users throughout the year, thus increasing public use and access in an historically underserved area of rural King County.

This legislation supports the objectives and strategies of the Strategic Climate Action Plan by improving access to alternative transportation options to reduce the need for driving and encourage the use of sustainable transportation such as walking or cycling.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This innovative partnership leverages resources from each entity to bring much-needed safe pedestrian access to South King County. Connecting the Enumclaw Plateau and Foothills Trails will significantly expand recreation opportunities for residents of the City of Buckley, the City of Enumclaw, Pierce County and rural King County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kevin Brown, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at

206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Kevin Brown, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP