

September 29, 2006

Mr. Eric Levison
City of Camas
616 NE Fourth Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

Subject: VAST Executive Summary

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City of Vancouver ¶
601 W. Evergreen ¶
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995¶

To Mr. Levison:

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The attached executive summary presents the results of the Vancouver Area Smart Trek (VAST) Program. The purpose of the VAST Program is to utilize Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies to improve mobility and transportation productivity, enhance safety, conserve energy resources and reduce adverse environmental affects without adding new lanes or building new highways.

The population in Clark County increased by 224% between 1960 and 1996. This growth has placed a tremendous burden on our transportation system. The VAST Program expands the options for meeting Clark County's transportation mobility challenges through the application of ITS technologies, and is being coordinated with similar efforts underway in the Portland metropolitan area to ensure ITS strategies throughout the region are integrated and complementary.

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ITS uses real-time information to integrate and manage the components of a conventional transportation system (i.e. roads, transit, ramp meters, traffic signals, etc.). By working efficiently and cooperatively among agencies, we can build and manage a smarter transportation system using ITS. ITS is no longer an alternative or option in dealing with congestion and increasing transportation demand. It is an integral part of the answer and one of the most cost-effective ways to obtain a more efficient transportation system.

Public outreach and involvement has been an integral part of the VAST Program. The public outreach campaign has been active throughout the entire course of the project and included:

- Monthly steering committee meetings
- A web site (www.vasttrek.org) for disseminating information about the project
- A newsletter in the Vancouver publication *Streetwise*
- Interviews with stakeholders to collect information about needs
- Two all day workshops

This program was developed over the past thirteen months and involved representatives from the Cities of Vancouver and Camas, Clark County, the Washington State

[Department of Transportation, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, C-TRAN and the Port of Vancouver.](#)

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The VAST Implementation Plan is organized into three time frames: 0-5 years, 6-10 years and 11-20 years. Features of the plan are presented in the executive summary and are organized by the following categories:

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Communications Infrastructure
Traveler Information
Incident Management
Transportation Management
Traffic Signal System
Transit Priority
Transit Operation and Management

The VAST Program is estimated to cost approximately \$45 million over the next 20 years. The VAST Program has already secured its first federal grant through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding program. This grant covers the deployment of an initial set of projects contained in the VAST Implementation Plan and spans multiple jurisdictions and modes of travel. As more grant money becomes available the Steering Committee will be responsible for organizing the over 30 projects identified in the VAST program into individual deployable projects based on their current needs.

For more information beyond the executive summary, a detailed final report was prepared for the project. This report provides expanded discussions on the content of each project in the program and the possible funding sources for ITS. It also provides background on how the National ITS System Architecture was used to develop this program. If you would like to obtain the final report or have questions regarding the content of the Executive Summary, please feel free to contact me at (360) 696-8290 x8659.

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Sincerely,

Howard Long
City of Vancouver Traffic Engineer
VAST Program Manager

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