

June 5, 2019

Roger Millar
Secretary of Transportation
Washington Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

Chief John Batiste
Washington State Patrol
Helen Sommers Building
106 11th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: City of North Bend's Opposition to New Weigh Station Site at I-90 Milepost 34

Dear Secretary Millar and Chief Batiste:

The City of North Bend ("City") strongly opposes siting a possible weigh station at Milepost ("MP") 34 as part of the I-90/SR 18 Interchange Improvements Project. The City highly supports the proposed improvements to the I-90/SR 18 Interchange. However, the location of a new weigh station should be a separate project from the I-90/SR 18 improvements. The selection of a site and whether a new weigh station is even necessary needs to be further vetted. The City opposes the siting of a new weigh station at I-90 MP 34 for the following reasons:

- The MP 34 site lacks adequate public facilities to serve a new weigh station
- The MP 34 site would likely be more expensive to construct than a site at MP 80
- The MP 34 site would negatively impact a children's educational camp
- The MP 34 site could jeopardize local drinking water supplies
- The MP 34 site is not an appropriate chain up area
- The MP 34 site will create unnecessary noise pollution in the area
- The MP 34 site will further burden a community already burdened with a truck stop

A more detailed analysis of the City's concerns follow below:

A. There are Not Adequate Public Facilities for a Weigh Station at MP 34.

The water purveyor in the area of MP 34, the Sallal Water Association, has declared an emergency moratorium on approving new water uses within its service area. Therefore, it is unlikely there is sufficient water to supply a new weigh station at MP 34. Additionally, it is likely there are no sewer facilities to serve a new weigh station at MP 34. The MP 34 site is currently in the City of North Bend's Urban Growth Area. King County does not have a sewer facility and there is no sewer district in the vicinity. The closest sewer utility provider, the City of North Bend, is running out of capacity at its wastewater treatment plant. Therefore, it is unclear whether sewer to serve a weigh station at MP 34 will be available.

B. The MP 34 Location Could Be Extremely Expensive to Construct.

King County has some of the highest prevailing wage rates in the state. Therefore, location of a weigh station at MP 34 would likely be extremely expensive, especially compared to other counties.

C. A Weigh Station at MP 34 Would Negatively Affect a Children's Camp Attended by Thousands of Kids Per Summer.

Camp Waskowitz is a year-round education camp located directly adjacent to the proposed weigh station site at MP 34. A weigh station would present increased noise and additional lighting that would be detrimental to the educational programs held at Camp Waskowitz and negatively impact the character of the camp as a place where our youngest Washingtonians can learn to respect and enjoy nature.

D. MP 34 Risks the Greatest Potential Adverse Impact to Public Health, Because of Nearby Drinking Water Supplies.

The paved impermeable surface associated with the weigh station will increase runoff containing petroleum products near the Camp Waskowitz water well, as well as other private wells. This poses a danger to local drinking water supplies.

E. MP 34 is the Not A Logical Location for A Weigh Station Chain-up Area During Winter Driving Conditions.

MP 34 is not a logical chain up area; this area does not typically receive precipitation as snow. MP 34 often receives no snow during the winter. Therefore, MP 34 is not an appropriate chain up area.

F. A weigh station at MP 34 will create unnecessary noise pollution in the area

The noise from trucks decelerating to enter the weigh station and accelerating to exit the weigh station will increase noise throughout the area.

G. A weigh station at MP 34 will unfairly burden the community

Finally, the City notes that it already bears the burden of a truck stop north of I-90 in the vicinity of MP 34. Creating a weigh station to the south of I-90 at MP 34 unnecessarily increases the burden from this truck traffic and distributes it inequitably and unfairly upon one community.

CONCLUSION

The City of North Bend opposes siting a weigh station at Interstate 90 milepost 34. The selection of a site and whether a new weigh station is even necessary needs to be further vetted. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Mayor Ken Hearing

Councilmember Chris Garcia

Councilmember Brenden Elwood

Councilmember Trevor Kostanich

Councilmember Alan Gothelf

Councilmember Martin Volken

Councilmember Jonathan Rosen

Councilmember Ross Loudenback