



# Legislative Request - West Olympia Access

## Interchange Justification Report Funding

### Project Need

Additional West Olympia access to US 101 to accommodate growth, while maintaining safe and acceptable levels of mobility.

### Issue

Major failure of the Cooper Point Road/Black Lake Boulevard intersection in West Olympia is expected within a 20-year horizon, with unacceptable congestion and traffic delays occurring in the near term. Adequately addressing congestion in this critical commercial area cannot be done without additional access from US 101 to West Olympia. Additional freeway access also decreases response time to emergency medical facilities (e.g., Capital Medical Center) and supports commerce in this vital area.



### Project overview

The West Olympia Access Study (WOAS), completed in August 2010 by the City of Olympia and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), evaluated three potential interchange alternatives, all designed to improve access and mobility in West Olympia. The City and WSDOT agreed that the Hybrid Alternative was the best alternative to advance to the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) process. The IJR process covers Engineering and Operational Acceptability approval, environmental review and 30% design.

The Hybrid Alternative includes an eastbound on-ramp and a westbound off-ramp at US 101 and Kaiser Road as Phase 1 (within 15 to 20 years) and an off-ramp extension in the westbound direction from US 101 at Black Lake Boulevard to Yauger Way as Phase 2 (beyond 20 years). See detailed picture for Phase 1 and Phase 2 above.

The new points of access to Kaiser Road and Yauger Way will:

- Reduce traffic congestion in the Black Lake Boulevard and Cooper Point Road intersection. Currently, two US 101 interchanges at Black Lake Boulevard and at Crosby Boulevard funnel traffic directly to this intersection.
- Improve access to the hospital and other emergency medical facilities along Yauger Way;
- Accommodate growth and support commercial activity in rapidly growing areas of West Olympia; and
- Provide multiple route options in the transportation system.

### Legislative Request

During the 2013 Legislative session, the City of Olympia is requesting \$850,000 in funding to complete an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) on the Hybrid Alternative.

Funding Sources for the IJR are:

- \$750,000 City of Olympia Transportation Impact Fees
- **\$850,000 Legislative request**

### Contacts

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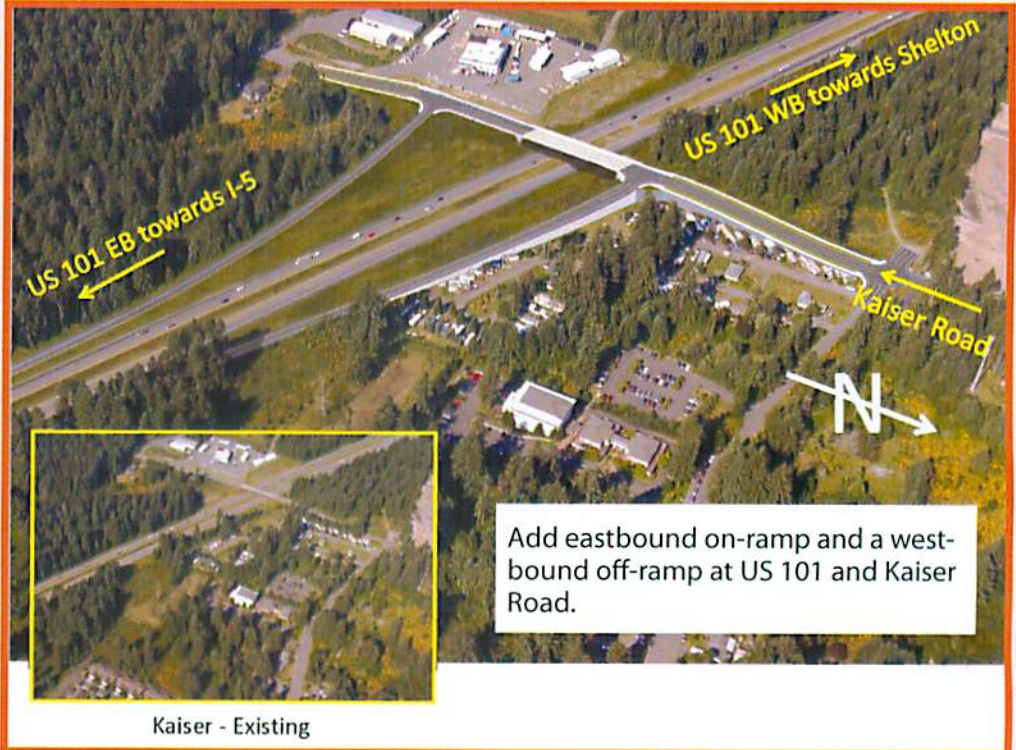


## Economic Impact

- West Olympia is a vital economic center for the Thurston County region. The total taxable retail sales in West Olympia comprise more than 50% of the City's total taxable retail sales.
- West Olympia is a significant employment and commercial center with over 17,000 jobs. Large employers include the Capital Mall, Capital Medical Center, Olympia Auto Mall, and the Mottman Road Industrial Park. Thurston County government offices are also located in West Olympia.
- Two colleges in West Olympia – South Puget Sound Community College and The Evergreen State College – are also accessed via US 101.
- The West Olympia Business Association (WOBA) has advocated the need for additional access to West Olympia from US 101 and strongly supports moving the Hybrid Alternative to the IJR process.



Above: Intersection of Black Lake Blvd and Cooper Point Road



Kaiser - Existing

Above: Phase 1, Below: Phase 2



Yauger Way Vicinity – Existing