



## City of Snoqualmie News Release

For immediate release: October 24, 2018

### **City Implores WSDOT to Use Weigh Station as Dedicated On-Ramp**

**Snoqualmie, WA** –Snoqualmie Mayor Matt Larson and Snoqualmie City Council Members wrote a formal letter of support addressed to Michael Cotton, Regional Administrator of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), imploring WSDOT to use a portion of the weigh station at the I-90/SR 18 interchange as a dedicated on-ramp from Snoqualmie Parkway to eastbound I-90 to relieve traffic congestion.

An excerpt of the letter follows.

“We write concerning the I-90/SR 18 Diverging Diamond Interchange WSDOT project, which is critical not only to Washington State residents and businesses generally, but to the thousands of our constituents living and working in the City of Snoqualmie.

“As you know, the I-90/SR 18 interchange at exit 25 is one of the busiest in the state, used by people who live in the area and commute from the east and west sides of Tiger Mountain; cross-state travelers, and freight haulers. Backups on both I-90 and SR18 are common and, far too often, both dangerous and excessive.

“We can say that we were heartened to see WSDOT's website posting indicating that *‘WSDOT will continue to monitor traffic in the area and make low-cost improvements, when feasible, to manage congestion until the improved interchange is complete.’*

“We are writing to urge WSDOT to promptly relocate the weigh station and use a portion of this area to allow for a temporary and designated on-ramp feeding directly off Snoqualmie Parkway onto westbound I-90 during the DDI (Diverging Diamond Interchange) construction. This is consistent with WSDOT's stated commitment to make low-cost improvements that would manage congestion in the interim while interchange improvements are being completed, because it would alleviate the current significant backups on Snoqualmie Parkway while also allowing for more efficient vehicle movements from northbound SR 18 onto the existing westbound I-90 on-ramp. These improvements would quickly improve safety conditions while also benefitting *thousands* of drivers every day, even before construction of

the physical interchange improvements has begun.

“We understand that WSDOT currently prefers to use the weigh station as a construction staging area. A temporary on-ramp and construction staging are not mutually exclusive, though, given the large size of the weigh station property and the return lane associated with it. And, there are multiple other sites in the immediate vicinity that can be made available for construction staging. To the extent other sites are needed, the City of Snoqualmie would gladly work together with WSDOT, property owners and the public to ensure that other staging areas can be arranged that meet WSDOT needs while also allowing use of the weigh station area for a temporary I-90 on-ramp. Construction staging convenience does not justify not utilizing the available weigh station lanes as a temporary, additional westbound I-90 on-ramp that will make such a difference to public safety and so many individual drivers who use the interchange on a daily basis.

“We look forward to working with Senator Mullet, WSDOT Secretary Millar and your project team at WSDOT, so that the I-90 / SR 18 interchange improvements become a reality as soon as possible. The State — and our City — depend on it.”

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