



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 5, 2010

Contact: Lance Newkirk, Interim Public Works Director
City of Bainbridge Island
(206) 780-3583
lnewkirk@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

Island Road Projects to Receive Federal Funds

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, January 5, 2010 – Interim City Manager Lee Walton announced today that Bainbridge Island has been selected to receive \$421,687 in federal funds for planned transportation improvement projects in 2011 and 2012. The funds are part of a \$388 million funding package intended to improve local and regional mobility in the Puget Sound region.

The funding will allow the City to proceed with two long-anticipated projects, construction of a paved shoulder for bicycle and pedestrian traffic along North Madison Ave. between Highway 305 and Valley Road, and development of an engineering solution for a section of Rockaway Beach Road that is threatened by erosion.

“Bluff erosion will continue to occur along this shoreline road,” said Interim Public Works Director Lance Newkirk. “I am encouraged to have the funds to develop a design solution before vehicle access to the Rockaway Beach neighborhood is threatened.”

Newkirk added that the North Madison improvements represent a key step in implementation of the City’s “Core 40” plan to develop a non-motorized transportation network along 40 miles of island roads. “With design and engineering support provided by our in-house staff, a majority of the federal funds can be dedicated to construction costs,” he said. “We’ll be working with the Council and the community to prioritize the phasing of the project, which will ultimately include paved shoulders on both sides of North Madison from Highway 305 to Day Road with a separate pedestrian path along part of the road,” he said.

The preliminary funding decision was made by the Executive Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) in October. Final approval by the Governor and federal funding agencies is expected in early 2010. Both projects were initially recommended for funding by the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC).

“I’m very pleased that our Public Works staff, working with the Transportation Policy Committee of the KRCC and the PSRC, identified and pursued this funding opportunity to a successful conclusion,” said City Councilmember Kim Brackett, representative to both groups. “The selection process is highly competitive, with many important projects competing for limited funds. Our staff worked hard to demonstrate the significance of these projects to our island’s transportation system.”

“PSRC is pleased to be able to help local jurisdictions move priority transportation projects forward in a challenging economic climate,” Bob Drewel, PSRC’s Executive Director, said in a letter sent to the City. PSRC is an association of central Puget Sound government and transportation agencies that facilitates coordinated planning for regional transportation, land use and economic development.

#