



Memo

To: Residents of Birch Bay Village and other Interested Parties
From: Jeff Monsen, County Public Works Director
CC: County Executive and County Council
Date: October 24, 2006
Re: New Birch Point / Lincoln Connector Road.

A number of phone calls have been received by Public Works voicing concerns over construction work adjacent to Birch Bay Village associated with the "Horizons" development. Most of the concerns are based on misinformation about the subject connector road being constructed between Birch Point Road and Semiahmoo Parkway/Lincoln Road. This memo is intended to describe the facts about the situation.

1. Construction of a new roadway has a long history

For at least 20 years land use and transportation plans have indicated the need for a connector road between Birch Point Road and Semiahmoo Parkway-Lincoln Road. Its construction has always been envisioned to be accomplished as a part of the eventual development of land northeast of Birch Bay Village. Some people may recall this connector road previously referred to as the Selder connector. While the name and specific location used for a new connector roadway have changed with time due to various development concepts, approval of the Horizons project finally allowed implementation of this long standing transportation goal.

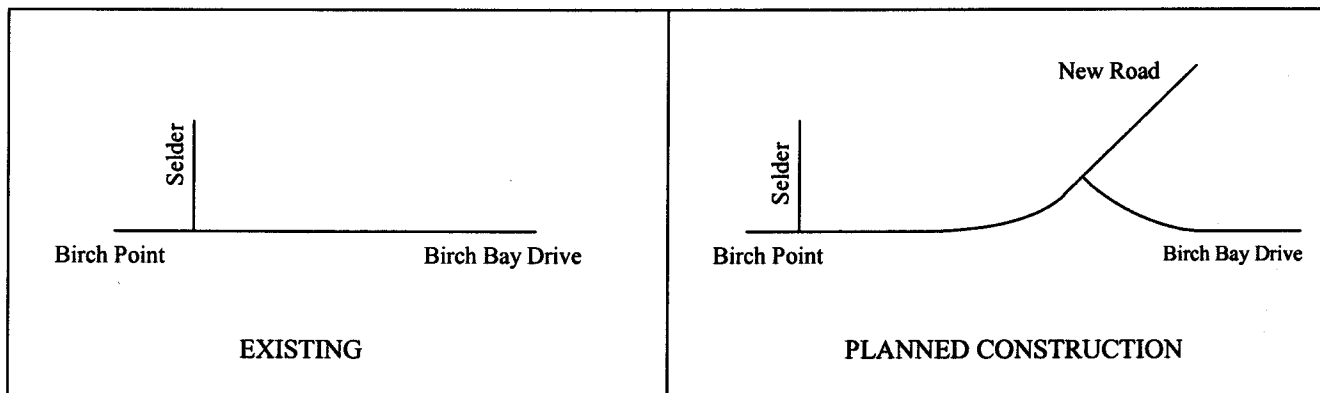
The vision for construction of the new connector roadway has always included the desire to improve travel options for residents of and visitors to Birch Point. More recently the construction of the connector road has also been seen as one of the important steps to begin restoration of the Birch Bay shoreline and to improve water quality in the bay.

Even though these goals have been stated for many years, the most recent affirmation occurred September 28, 2004, with the adoption of the Birch Bay Community Plan and the completion of the Birch Bay Stormwater Plan this past summer. All historical transportation and stormwater planning, including the two noted recent planning exercises, always included representatives from Birch Bay Village.

2. Birch Point Road and access to Birch Bay Drive IS NOT being closed

The construction of the connector road includes a change in the traffic pattern to support the goals referenced above. No access options are being eliminated as a part of the reconstruction.

Below is a sketch of the roadway changes, with the length of added travel distance between Birch Point Road and Birch Bay Drive being less than 200-feet.



As a part of this new roadway, design work is already underway to complete improvements to Lincoln Road from Shintaffer Road to Blaine Road, and preliminary design for improvements to the intersections of Birch Bay Lynden/Blaine and Birch Bay Lynden/Portal. We are also working with the State towards improving Blaine Road. All of these roadway segments and intersections should be improved within the next few years.

3. The Horizons developer IS NOT forcing these improvements on the community.

All roadway improvements and stormwater management features are requirements placed on the developer by the County. The public hearing for the Horizons development was held on September 29, 2005, including representatives of Birch Bay Village participating. The final development proposal and all of its mitigation requirements were approved on October 27, 2005.

These new roadway segments will be publicly owned and maintained once completed.