



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3809
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director
David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager
Don Anderson, P.E., Project Engineer

Date: June 25, 2009

Subject: KOLLIN NIELSON MEMORIAL NAMING of the I-405 BRIDGE over NE 116th STREET

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council accept the recommendation of the Kirkland Transportation Commission on the proposed naming of the state-owned Interstate 405 bridge over NE 116th Street, and authorize the mayor to sign the attached correspondence to the Washington State Transportation Commission expressing City Council and community support for the naming.

BACKGROUND:

Kollin Nielson was employed as a project engineer by Kiewit Pacific Construction Company during the WSDOT Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 project, which built the new I-405 bridge over NE 116th Street. He tragically lost his life June 22, 2007, due to a drunk driving incident during the construction effort. He was 30 years old, and is survived by his wife, Sara and a young son.

Legislative intent was made through Senator Rodney Tom's efforts to name the bridge in Mr. Nielson's memory, both in 2008 and again in 2009. While the latter proposed Senate Joint Memorial 8007 received a hearing and passed the Transportation Committee in 2009, it did not make it to the floor for voting prior to the end of session.

Besides through an act of law, the naming of state-owned facilities may also be accomplished through the state Transportation Commission, following specific policies which demonstrate local agency support (see attached).



New I-405 Bridge over NE 116th Street

Kirkland staff along with WSDOT coordination provided notice to the Kirkland community requesting public input and hearing this proposal at the Kirkland Transportation Commission meeting in June. Outreach for receiving public comment was made through KGOV, the Kirkland city web site, the neighborhood electronic list-serv (e-bulletin) and a press release. Additionally, Senator Tom's office provided a press release announcing the public meeting.

Memorandum to David Ramsay

June 25, 2009

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Public comment was received at the Kirkland Transportation Commission meeting June 24, 2009. A majority of the public present voiced support to name the bridge in Mr. Nielson's memory; one citizen did not support the proposal (a brief summary of public comment is provided in Attachment D). Three emails on the matter were received by the City and are also included in the summary of public comment.

After public comment, the Kirkland Transportation Commission discussed the proposal; three commissioners voiced support for the naming, a motion was made and carried by all commissioners present to recommend to City Council that it endorse the **Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge** naming, and authorize the mayor to sign the attached letter from Council to the state Transportation Commission.

Transportation Commission comments beyond complete support for the naming included questions on logistics for signage and where a plaque might be erected, as well as ensuring that any plaque should make aware to all who read it the connection between Mr. Nielson's passing and driving under the influence being its cause. Continuing to raise awareness on the issue of drunk driving was expressed as a priority message. Staff endeavors to request these matters be considered by the state with any further memorial naming action.

Attachments: A: June 24, 2009 Kirkland Transportation Commission Agenda Item 1
 B: Washington State Naming Policy & Facility Index
 C: Senate Joint Memorial 8007
 D: Public Comment Summary
 E: Draft Letter to Washington State Transportation Commission



600 – 108th Avenue NE, Suite 405
Bellevue, WA 98004
Main 425-456-8500
Fax 425-456-8600

Packet to the Kirkland Transportation Commission for their June 24, 2009 regular meeting, in the matter of:

The “Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge” Proposal Renaming the I-405 Bridge over NE 116th Street

Background

On June 22, 2007, Kollin Nielson tragically lost his life due to a drunk driving incident while he was working on the Washington State Department of Transportation's I-405 Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 Widening Project. Kollin was thirty years old and an employee of Kiewit Pacific Construction Company. He was Project Engineer over the grading, drainage, and paving work, which included many critical operations such as surveying, erosion control, traffic control, and subcontractor coordination.

Kollin is survived by his wife, Sara, and his young son.

Facility Naming

Senator Rodney Tom (48th Legislative District) introduced Senate Joint Memorial 8030 in 2008 to name the I-405 Bridge in memory of Kollin Nielson; unfortunately the bill was held up and did not pass in the 2008 session. Senator Tom reintroduced the legislation in 2009 with Senate Joint Memorial 8007, which received a hearing and passed the Transportation Committee. However, the bill did not make it to the floor for voting.

In mid-April, Senator Rodney Tom's office received word from the state Transportation Commission that if there were sufficient public support for the naming of the bridge, it would be possible to move forward without reintroducing a new bill in the 2010 session.

Facility Location

The facility to be named is located at the I-405 interchange crossing at NE 116th Street in Kirkland, being the I-405 freeway bridge over NE 116th Street. WSDOT completed a widened freeway bridge at this location of I-405 as part of the Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 construction project in 2007, and will be completing final improvements at the NE 116th Street interchange by adding new arterial lanes, sidewalks, lighting, and bike lanes in the next construction phase (planned for 2011).

Process

State transportation commission guidelines require that in order to move forward with the naming of the bridge, the naming proposal must be publicly vetted to allow the local community an opportunity to comment on the proposal. This opportunity at Kirkland's Transportation Commission is intended to serve as a public hearing forum for discussion by the Commission and for receiving public comment. The presentation is planned for the next Kirkland Transportation Commission's regular meeting on June 24th at 6 p.m. (Kirkland City Hall).



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Questions of Interest

- What are facility naming guidelines for the state?
See WSTC Policy Statement: Naming or Renaming State Transportation Facilities, attached.
- What other state facilities have been named after an individual?
See Facility Naming Index document attached.
- If the bridge is renamed, what visible sign or plaque will be provided? Where will the sign be mounted?
WSDOT 405 Program staff is working within the I-405 Context Sensitive Solutions guidelines to determine the details for a mounted plaque displaying the memorial naming. Standards will be provided by Paul Kinderman, WSDOT State Bridge and Structures Architect. The Kirkland Transportation Commission may make a suggestion to WSDOT regarding the plaque location. WSDOT will coordinate with city of Kirkland staff on location and installation.
- Will there be a public naming event?
We still have to plan the details of this after all agencies have approved this proposal.

Next Steps

1. Kirkland Transportation Commission makes a recommendation to the Kirkland Council to send a letter to the Washington State Transportation Commission in support of the memorial naming.
2. Kirkland City Council receives the Kirkland Transportation Commission's recommendation and if in agreements, sends a letter signed by the mayor endorsing the naming of the I-405 bridge to the "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" to the Washington State Transportation Commission.
3. The Washington Transportation Commission will discuss the naming proposal at an upcoming Commission meeting.
4. After the Commission takes final action, it will notify WSDOT, the Governor's Office, and the legislators and local officials from the area. After the state Transportation Commission approves the naming, the new name of the I-405 bridge will be the "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge.**"
5. WSDOT has the responsibility to design and install the appropriate signs in accordance with state and federal standards.
6. WSDOT will coordinate with the state Commission and the city of Kirkland as they plan a memorial naming ceremony.
7. The Regional Administrator will provide a description of the bridge and its location to the State Bridge and Structures Preservation Engineer.
8. The "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" is entered within the state Commission's record of all named facilities.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WSTC POLICY STATEMENT: *NAMING OR RENAMING STATE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES*

Section 1

Statutory Authority:

RCW 47.01, Chapter 33, Laws of 2007

Section 2

What is the purpose of naming or renaming state transportation facilities?

The Commission has named state transportation facilities after an individual, a group of individuals, entities, etc. for many years at the request of the Legislature and communities. A naming is done in a thorough and deliberative manner to honor and institute an enduring memory of a person or group of people who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the state or nation and with the widespread support of the people from the area in which the facility is located. The Commission shall avoid acting to name or rename a facility in response to emotion or duress.

Section 3

Definitions

“Commission” means the Washington State Transportation Commission.

“Department” means the Washington State Department of Transportation.

“Facility” includes, but is not limited to:

1. state highways;
2. state highway bridges, structures, and facilities;
3. ferry terminals;
4. state rest areas; and
5. state roadside facilities, such as viewpoints.

Section 4

What types of state transportation facilities may be named or renamed by the Transportation Commission?

The Commission may name facilities owned or operated by the State of Washington.

Section 5

Who can initiate the process to name or rename a facility?

The Legislature, the Washington State Department of Transportation, state and local governmental entities, citizen organizations, and any person may initiate the process to name or rename a facility.

Section 6

What is the process for initiating the naming of a state transportation facility?

To initiate the naming process without a legislative Joint Memorial being enacted, an interested party must contact the Commission to establish their interest in seeking a naming. The requesting party shall provide sufficient evidence to the Commission indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal.

Evidence of community support and acceptance may include things such as:

1. Letters of support from state and federal legislators representing area of the facility;
2. Resolutions passed by local, publicly elected bodies in the area of the facility;
3. Department support;
4. Supportive action by or letters from local organizations such as local chambers of commerce or service clubs.

After receiving adequate evidence of support, the Commission shall consult with the department on the proposal to name or rename a facility and schedule the proposal for discussion and possible action at a regular meeting of the Commission.

Should the Legislature pass a Joint Memorial requesting the Commission name a facility, the Commission will hold a public hearing to allow for public input prior to taking action as soon as possible following the enactment of the joint memorial.

Section 7

What criteria are used by the Commission when it is requested to name a facility after an individual?

If a naming request is submitted for a person who has recently died, the Commission shall not act on the request for at least twelve months after the date of passing to allow for a respectful period of mourning and reflection.

If two or more names are submitted for the same facility, the Commission shall consider the possibility of naming the facility using both names, and shall seek additional input into its decision, such as but not limited to, through consultation with community leaders or through a public hearing in the vicinity of the facility.

The Commission shall exercise extra caution in naming or renaming a facility in honor of a living person, giving extra consideration to the appropriateness of the timing of the naming in the context of the individual's life and current standing in the community.

In considering whether to name a facility after an individual or a group of people, the Commission shall evaluate such things as:

- Whether the person or group made a significant contribution to transportation in such areas as safety, mobility of people and goods, economic vitality and protection of the environment.
- Whether the person or group committed a significant amount of their time working on or addressing transportation or other significant issues in the state.

- Whether the person or groups efforts has had a positive long-term effect on the lives of the people that they represented.

Section 8

What is the process the Commission uses to rename a state transportation facility that already has a name assigned to it?

The Commission may rename a state facility already given a name, if petitioned to do so. In addition to the process described in section 6 for naming a facility, the Commission shall, at a minimum, consult with the descendants of the person originally honored, and seek public comment and input in the vicinity of the facility.

Section 9

What happens after a facility is named or renamed by the Commission?

After the Commission takes final action, it shall notify the Department, the Governor's Office, and the legislators and elected local legislative officials from the area in which the facility is located. The department shall design and install the appropriate signs in accordance with state and federal standards.

If the facility is a bridge, the Regional Administrator shall provide a description of the bridge and its location to the State Bridge and Structures Preservation Engineer.

The Commission shall maintain a single record of all facilities named, for the purpose of easy access by the public and the legislature.

FACILITY NAMING INDEX

Resolution	Facility Name	
355	Name 172 nd Street and I-5 overpass in Tacoma the P.J. “Jim” Gallagher Overpass	6/15/89
371	Name New bridge on SR2-Division Street, Spokane, Senator Sam C. Guess Memorial Bridge	6/21/90
393	Name the Olds Station Bridge Number 2/275 the Richard Odabashian Bridge	3/12/91
458	Name the 3 rd Lake Washington Bridge on I-90 the Homer M. Hadley Memorial Bridge	4/15/93
549	Name the 11 th Street Bridge/SR 509 the Murray Morgan Bridge	5/14/97
572	Naming Adele Ferguson Bridge at the junction of 3/150E and 3/150 w on SR 3 and SR 305	7/15/98
594	Resolution supporting the Legislative designation of the Lewis and Clark Highway	8/18/99
602	Naming a segment of SR 20 in Anacortes the Paul Luvera, Sr. Memorial Highway	03/15/00
603	Naming the South Wenatchee Bridge on SR 285 the George L. Sellar Bridge	03/30/00
630	Adopting the Makah Scenic Byway Designation	4/17/02
634	Designation of US97 Pateros to Canadian Border as State Scenic Byway	7/17/02
642	Palouse County Scenic Byway designation	12/19/02
646	Renaming SR 904 Milepost 257-271 after Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson	2/19/03
650	Naming 320 th /I-5 street crossing in Federal Way the (Representative) Maryann Mitchell Overpass	5/22/03
655	Naming of SR 16 Non-motorized trail after Scott Pierson	9/16/03
663	Honorary Naming of Galer Avenue Pedestrian Overpass the Ray Moore Memorial Pedestrian Overpass	5/19/04
673	Renaming the Megler Rest Area to “Dismal Nitch”	10/19/05
678	Designating a portion of State Hwy 22 as a Blue Star Memorial Highway	4/18/06
679	Renaming the Berkeley Street Bridge to Freedom bridge	4/18/06

681	Naming SR 397 Ainsworth Avenue Overpass the “Charles D. Kilbury Overpass”	8/15/06
685	Naming the “Korean War Veteran’s Blue Star Memorial Highway”	7/17/07
686	Naming the “Jack Metcalf Ferry Terminal”	7/17/07
689	Naming the “Vietnam War Veterans’ Memorial Highway”	5/22/08
691	Naming the 172 nd Street overpass - “Oliver ‘Punks’ Smith Interchange	7/16/08
692	Naming the “Battle Ground Highway” and the “Lewisville Highway”	5/20/09

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Tom, Oemig, and Jarrett)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/09.

1 TO THE HONORABLE PAULA HAMMOND, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO
2 THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON
3 STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, On June 22, 2007, Kollin Nielson tragically lost his life
8 due to a drunk driving incident while working on the state Department
9 of Transportation's Interstate 405 Kirkland Project in support of the
10 citizens of Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Nielson was thirty years old and an employee of Kiewit
12 Pacific Construction Company. He was Project Engineer over the
13 grading, drainage, and paving work, which included many critical
14 operations such as surveying, erosion control, traffic control, and
15 subcontractor coordination. He was a critical part of the construction
16 team; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Nielson is survived by his wife, Sara, and his young
18 son; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Nielson grew up on a farm in Eastern Washington, where
20 his parents instilled in him a great work ethic. He was deeply

1 committed to his faith and very active in his church, no matter where
2 his career took him. These virtues were very evident in the way Mr.
3 Nielson lived his life. He worked hard, played hard, and always
4 treated everyone with the utmost respect, dignity, and honesty;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
6 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to name
7 the NE 116th Street overcrossing of Interstate 405 in Kirkland the
8 "Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge."

9 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
10 transmitted to the Honorable Paula Hammond, Secretary of
11 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and the
12 Washington State Department of Transportation.

--- END ---

Summary of Public Comment

The Kirkland Transportation Commission’s June 24, 2009 public meeting, in the matter of:

The “Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge” Proposal

Renaming the I-405 Bridge over NE 116th Street

On June 24, 2009, the Kirkland Transportation Commission held a public meeting and received testimony on the matter of naming a public bridge facility owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation in memory of Kollin Nielson, who tragically lost his life due to a drunk driving incident during construction of the I-405 Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 Widening Project. The information below is a brief summary of commentary received at the public meeting, via email prior to the meeting date, and via written correspondence.

Twenty members of the public attended; those in attendance who signed in:

Kathy Kratzer	Maple Valley, WA
Debbie Claypool	Sammamish, WA
Karen Arden	Seattle, WA
Todd Boyle	Kirkland, WA
Kirk Nelson	Kent, WA
Chris Nelson	Seattle, WA
Joan McBride	Kirkland, WA
Representative Ross Hunter	48 th Legislative District
Nahid Daneshfaud	Mill Creek, WA
Chris Mitchell	Everett, WA
Tricia Nylund	Battle Ground, WA
Dave Zemek	Maple Valley, WA
Stacy Trussler	WSDOT

Public Comment via testimony at the Transportation Commission Meeting June 24:

SPEAKER	POSITION
Joan McBride (not speaking on behalf of City Council)	FOR
Dave Zemek, former Vice President, Kiewit Pacific Construction Company	FOR
Senator Rodney Tom (48 th Legislative District)	FOR
Todd Boyle, Kirkland resident (also emailed, see below)	AGAINST
Chris Mitchell, Kirkland resident at the time of the accident, and then WSDOT representative working with Kiewit	FOR
Representative Ross Hunter(48 th Legislative District)	FOR
Ron McDougal, employee Kiewit Pacific	FOR

Deputy Mayor McBride spoke relating her experience as a longtime member of the 405 Executive Committee, her commitment to transportation and seeing this as a very sad, tragic event. The naming of this bridge would be "a great tribute for Mr. Nielson and his family."

Dave Zemek related his personal connection to this story, how the naming is a way to honor Kollin, while also advocating for safety to the public.

Senator Rodney Tom related the stories of the bills in the Legislature and voiced intolerance for drunk driving, this naming sends a message to the public to tap the brakes, slow down.

Todd Boyle acknowledged the emotions around this individual story but advocated for a rational criteria for the naming of public facilities. Goals for naming could include the highest priority of social causes: global warming, war and peace, educating our children, etc.

Chris Mitchell voiced how this accident has changed his personal perspective on safety; he recalled knowing Kollin, his wife and son.

Representative Ross Hunter voiced support for Senator Tom's comments, and requested the Commission support this naming.

Ron McDougal provided an emotional testimony of having worked with Kollin for five to six years prior to the accident, and considers this naming a way to honor all (transportation) workers.

Public Comment via Email:

Three Emails Received to the City as of 6/24/2009:

1. Todd Boyle (also provided spoken comments at the public meeting, see above)

From: Todd Boyle [mailto:tboyle@rosehill.net]

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 4:37 PM

To: KirklandCouncil

Cc: snow-lakeforestpark@lists.riseup.net

Subject: Opposing the naming of overpasses after dead construction workers

I am opposed to the proposed name for the 116th Street Overpass. [Article Below]. It is arbitrary and whimsical. Millions of drivers will have to look at the name over the coming decades. I oppose this name for two reasons. 1) humanity faces much more important issues than drunk driving, including global warming, peak oil and war. Within any rational comparison of importance, it would be named the "James Hansen Bridge", "King Hubbert Bridge", or "Mohandas Gandhi Bridge", "Richard Stallman Bridge", etc. 2) the naming process is emotionalistic and it is an assault on reason itself. Let's have a rational process. Let's not just have a big scrum of people, intent on their single goals, grab the football and run down the field before the other people are even aware of the process.

Frankly the Kollin Neilsen people are mythologizing death itself. There is an excessive fear of death, and denial of death, in our culture that goes back thousands of years. There is a religious association, of course. A neurotic fear or preoccupation with death is associated with the apocalypse myths of many cultures. It also leads, for example, to excessive military spending, to unreasonable medical spending in the last months of life, to prohibitions on assisted suicide, and so forth.

If the Kollin Neilsen people succeed at their naming, I will propose that the 100th Street pedestrian overpass be named, the "Peace and Justice Bridge". Why not? Fair is fair.

Todd Boyle toddboyle@comcast.net (425) 827-3107
9745 128th Avenue NE, Kirkland WA 98033-5286

2. Margaret Bull

From: meabull@juno.com [mailto:meabull@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2009 6:32 PM
To: Don Anderson
Subject: bridge name.

I think you should drop the "Memorial" in the proposed name of the bridge. It makes it too long to fit on a map and less likely for anyone to ever use it. "K. Nielson bridge" might even be better. It has a nice ring to it.

Margaret Bull

3. Chuck Pilcher

From: Chuck Pilcher [mailto:chuck@bourlandweb.com]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 12:16 PM
To: Don Anderson
Cc: Rodney Tom
Subject: Bridge naming

I think it's a classy idea to name this bridge for the construction worker killed while it was being built. Would never have thought of this myself. Thanks to Rodney Tom, too.

Chuck Pilcher
206-915-8593 Cell/Business/Personal
425-822-1221 Home/Fax

Public Comment via Written Correspondence:

A letter from Representative Roger Goodman (45th District) was hand delivered to city hall June 24, 2009, in support of the proposal.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
45th DISTRICT
ROGER GOODMAN

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



JUDICIARY
VICE CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
EARLY LEARNING &
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATUTE LAW

June 24, 2009

Re: Naming of the "Kolin Neilson Memorial Bridge"

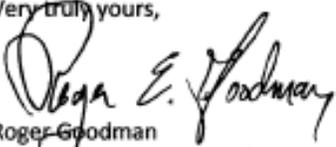
To The Kirkland Transportation Commission:

I want to add my voice of support for the naming of the NE 116th Street Bridge in memory of Kolin Nielson. I regret that I am unable to attend your public hearing in person this evening but I am sure you will receive many other expressions of support from Kolin's friends and family and from other members of the community.

While visiting the neighborhoods in the summer of 2008 I met some of Kolin's family, who made a strong impression on me as they described the tragic incident that took Kolin's life and the idea of naming the NE 116th Street Bridge in his memory. During the 2009 legislative session the entire legislative delegation from the 45th and 48th Districts followed up with correspondence to the Washington State Transportation Commission, and I am pleased to see the process moving forward with the public hearing to record the support for this memorial in our community.

I strongly urge you and the Washington State Transportation Commission to approve the naming of the NE 116th Street Bridge as the "Kolin Neilson Memorial Bridge." Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


Roger Goodman
State Representative, 45th District



July 7, 2009

D R A F T

Honorable Members
Washington State Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47308
Olympia, Washington 98504-7070

Re: The "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" Proposal
Naming of the I-405 bridge over NE 116th Street

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Kirkland and its citizens voice our support for the "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" naming of the I-405 Bridge over NE 116th Street. The Kirkland Transportation Commission held a public hearing on June 24th in which members of the community expressed strong support for the naming.

We understand that the Washington State Department of Transportation and Senator Rodney Tom's office have also received strong support for this naming.

The Kirkland Transportation Commission endorses the recommendation put forth by Senate Joint Memorial 8007, the "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" naming of the I-405 bridge over NE 116th Street. This Council is in agreement, and we request your consideration of this naming in memory of Kollin Nielson and in appreciation for his contributions in the construction of this new bridge. A priority of our community is to raise awareness of the problems of driving under the influence, and this sentiment was present in public testimony June 24 and by recommendation of our Transportation Commission. Any proposed plaque to be visible to pedestrians or visitors to the street-side part of the bridge should commemorate Mr. Nielson while also raising awareness on drunk driving. Kirkland requests state staff coordinate with city staff on any appropriate plaque and/or signage and its location.

Additional background information provided to the Kirkland City Council and Transportation Commission is enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

By: James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Kirkland Transportation Commission
Daryl Grigsby, Director of Public Works

enclosure: Kirkland Transportation Commission "Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge" informational packet