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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).



Corridor Program

Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects

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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 |

July 7, 2009

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 voices 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 unwavering support for the naming, and no opposition was voiced.

The City of Kirkland received strong support for the naming, and hereby provides evidence of public comment attached to this letter. 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 supports the recommendation put forth by Senate Joint Memorial 8007, the "**Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge**" naming of the NE 116th Street Bridge over I-405. This Council and our Transportation Commission request your consideration of this naming as a gesture of appreciation in memory of Kollin Nielson. 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

enclosures: Public Comment
"Kollin Nielson Memorial Bridge" packet