

Rep. Mike Chapman 132B Legislative Building P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Chapman,

We, the undersigned, support improvements to US 101 on the east side of Sequim. In the 1990s it was recognized by the Washington State Department of Transportation that sub-standard highway geometrics made travel hazardous in this area, both along the mainline and entering and leaving the intersections at Palo Alto Road and Happy Valley Road. Unfortunately, budget constraints at the time prevented the improvements from being constructed.

We support the legislature providing funding for the scoping and design of a project that will improve safety, mobility, and economic development opportunities. Design elements will include:

- Complete the Simdars Road interchange to fully support economic development on the east side of Sequim including in the recently created Emerald Coast Economic Opportunity Zone.
- Construct a frontage road connecting Palo Alto and Happy Valley Roads to the Simdars interchange and eliminating their direct connection to US Highway 101. An alternative for Palo Alto could be the option of creating a new underpass/overpass east of Johnson Creek that ties Palo Alto Road into Whitefeather Way to access US 101. Traffic volumes have increased tremendously since the bypass was built and this will greatly enhance safety on the highway mainline and provide safe access for users of Palo Alto and Happy Valley to a freeway connection at the interchange and to city streets.
- Landscape the Sequim bypass between Simdars and River Roads. The work was not done when the bypass was built and has left an unattractive "gateway" to the North Olympic Peninsula. Let's have the highway reflect the beauty that tourists come to see.

This work would fit in well with the already funded 2023 project to replace the Johnson Creek culvert with a bridge and could take place at the same time, minimizing traffic disruptions.

Sincerely,

Mark Ozias.

**Board of County Commissioners** 

City of Sequim Business Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tribal Council Chair/CEO

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Ben andrews Challam Co, Fire District No. 3

Connie Seawards
Port of Port Angeles Commission President