

Project Proposal**Phase II - Intermodal Transit Facility and Parking Garage total cost \$14 million
Highline Community College**

The SW King County-Highline Intermodal Transit Facility and Parking Garage at S240th Street and State Road 99 will have parking for approximately 600 vehicles. This facility will provide essential access to transit service for local residents; transit transfer options for commuters and students at the college; park and ride options for commuters; dedicated stalls for van pool/car pool and community flex-cars; interconnectivity for bicycle commuters/bicycle storage facilities; and vehicle and pedestrian signage. This facility will dramatically improve transit and vehicular access for Highline Community College students as well as commuters. The design will anticipate long term expansion of the Sound Transit Light Rail system to include a terminal and transfer site at the same location.

It is anticipated this structure will be a two or three story steel-reinforced concrete structure with internal driving ramps, pedestrian stair towers, and elevators. Initial site work will include turn lanes, ingress and egress from Pacific Highway South and Highline Community College, bus load/unload zones and turnarounds, as well as all required street improvements, traffic control modifications, and surface water retention structures.

The total cost for this project is \$14 million, of which **\$5 million is requested in the FY2007 Transportation Appropriations bill (FTA/Bus and Bus Facilities Account)**. FY 07 funding will fund Phase II of the project which will allow for the completion of the design and permits, acquisition of land, and beginning construction of approximately a 600 stall parking structure. The initial \$850,000 FY 2006 appropriation is being utilized for study, pre-design, traffic and parking studies, environmental analysis, and beginning design work.

Highline Community College

FY 2006 Appropriations Request

The Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury and HUD, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia and Independent Agencies

1) Project Name

Southwest King County-Highline Community College Intermodal Transit Facility and Parking Garage at S240th Street and State Road 99

2) What Congressional District is the project located in? WA-9th

3) Amount requested: Total cost of project is \$14 million; FY2006 request is \$1.2 million for initial study, planning and design

4) Category/account under which project would be funded:

DOT / FTA / Bus and Bus Facilities

5) Overall project description.

The Southwest King County-Highline Community College Intermodal Transit Facility and Parking Garage at S240th Street and State Road 99 will have parking for approximately 600 vehicles. The facility will provide essential access to transit service to local residents; transit transfer options for commuters and patients of Highline Hospital; transit transfer options for commuters and students at the college; park-and-ride options for commuters; dedicated stalls for van pool/car pool parking and community flex-cars; interconnectivity for bicycle commuters/bicycle storage facilities; and vehicle and pedestrian signage.

The consolidated regional transportation network of buses and rail lines serves Southwest King County. Traffic moves principally along the major highways and freeways – State route 99, Interstate 5, Interstate 405 and State routes 509, 167 and 161. Commuter rail exists in the Kent valley about five miles east of the campus, with a stop at a convenient park'n'ride with transit buses to the college. Regional transit planning envisions light rail down to the airport, about 3 miles north of the campus, with the very long-term calling for extension of the rail system along Highway 99 to Federal Way and Tacoma. For the 20-year horizon, however, travel to and from the College and to and from the greater Des Moines area to Seattle and Tacoma is dependent on buses and cars. The closest transit modes to the College are at Kent Station, in Federal Way and at the airport. Bus service to the campus is good – there are presently four routes that come directly onto campus and others that pick up and discharge passengers on Highway 99 adjacent to the campus. Since the campus is a destination for a large number of people every day (about 10,000 person trips at the high point of fall quarter), locating a formal, organized transit center on or near the campus will promote transit use and reduce the number of single occupancy cars. The College already subsidizes bus passes for students, faculty and staff, and pursues an aggressive program of transportation management. The proposed center supports better transportation to and from the college and throughout the region by providing a focus for bus routes to serve the broader community.

Highline Community College offers classes in southwest King County, Washington to over 10,000 students per day and employs 700 full time and 500 part time staff. While Highline's campus has 2386 parking spaces, this is inadequate to meet the over 12,000 students and employees on a daily basis. Up until spring 2005, the College rented space at a former drive in movie theater, but that space is being redeveloped for commercial space. To manage the parking limitations, the campus is served by several direct transit routes and offers a transportation management plan of subsidized bus passes and free parking for carpools.

6) Briefly and specifically describe what the requested funding would accomplish.

Requested FY06 funding would fund initial study, planning and design of the Intermodal transit facility and parking garage for Southwest King County-Highline Community College. The facility would dramatically improve transit and vehicular access for Highline Community College students as well as commuters. Convenient transit and vehicular accessibility to the facility reduces stress on employees and students as well as providing enhanced transit and transportation options for the surrounding community. The parking and transit structure will be adjacent to the college. Construction for the intermodal facility is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2006.

7) Project Plan

a) Is the project part of the State's long-range plan? Not applicable.

b) Is the project included in the metropolitan and or State Transportation Improvement Program? It is expected that the project will be included in the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Improvement Plan in May 2005.

8) Background Information

Highline Community College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. The college is nationally and internationally recognized as a premiere community college and is one of 34 community and technical colleges in the state of Washington. Highline's main campus is located on an 80-acre wooded site in the Pacific Northwest, 20 minutes south of downtown Seattle in Des Moines, Washington. Classes are also provided at a campus in Federal Way and additional service-area locations such as Burien and White Center. With approximately 10,000 students and 350,000 alumni, it is one of the state's largest institutions of higher education. The current campus was built in 1964 with additional buildings added in following years to meet student needs and changing technology.

Highline offers associate degrees that provide preparation for transfer to four-year colleges or universities along with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees and/or certificates in approximately 40 professional-technical education programs, designed to help students succeed in today's marketplace. Highline also offers pre-college, basic education, and short-term training programs. Highline's Center for Extended Learning provides training for professional advancement, technology, entrepreneurship, and other business skills. Businesses also use Highline's excellent customized training to increase employee workplace skills and knowledge for application in today's competitive business environment.

Highline contributes to the economic development of Southwest King County by increasing individuals' lifetime earning capacity through associate degree education and training; increasing employee job skills through education and training; raising basic skills through adult basic education; aiding the transition from welfare to work; and providing resources for dislocated workers and the under- and unemployed. The college recruits international students who bring approximately \$4 million to the local economy. As a major employer in Des Moines, Highline employs 1,250 people who serve students at multiple locations throughout King County.

3/11/05