



CITY OF PUYALLUP EXCITED TO RECEIVE LIFT GRANT

Earlier this week, the City of Puyallup was humbled and excited to receive wonderful news from the state's Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). After a lengthy and very competitive process, CERB decided to award a local infrastructure funding grant (LIFT) to the City of Puyallup, amounting to \$1 million per year for 25 years. The award is based on a plan to connect Puyallup's two job centers – South Hill and Downtown Puyallup – with improved transit connection options, trail system improvements, telecommunication/fiber-optic upgrades, and other infrastructure items – all in an effort to create jobs within the City.

Puyallup's plan covers 25 years, and includes a strategy to gradually surplus and allow transit-oriented development projects on publicly owned sites in the City's downtown core; it improves trails and fiber connections available for future jobs up on South Hill, with a **special focus on serving the South Hill Business and Technology Center** campus and Pierce College; it includes a plan to establish transit connections between the City's two growth centers, i.e. downtown and south hill, with a bus-rapid-transit connector vehicle along the Meridian Corridor to the Sounder Station, perhaps named "EZRA", for Easy Rider Area; and it seeks to make infrastructure improvements in the downtown core (parking facilities) to attract more jobs and housing projects in the area. This is a real plan with a real payoff for the City, the region and the State of Washington:

- 920,000 square feet of new retail development
- \$110 million of Public Infrastructure Investment
- \$910 million in private Commercial and Residential Investment

LIFT funds will enable the City to fund major infrastructure improvements that are connected with jobs and transit-oriented housing and employment options. It is not just a million dollars spread over time, but instead could provide up to a million dollars each year for 25 years – the life of the Puyallup plan.