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June 30, 2006

To: Chris Carlson, Senior Planner, City of Tumwater Development Services
From: Dennis Bloom, Planning Manager
Subject: **Tumwater Retail Store Supplemental Draft EIS**
Copy: Stops & Zones Committee

Intercity Transit staff has reviewed the DSEIS for the proposed development of a Wal-Mart Supercenter in Tumwater to be located at 5900 Littlerock Road SW.

We have a number of comments regarding the document including the apparent deficiency in addressing both existing and future public transit access along Littlerock Road.

Under the conditions of an environmental review, public transportation is specifically called out regarding impacts; e.g., whether the development site is served by transit and the approximate distance to the nearest bus stop. The current DSEIS does not appear to address these elements anywhere within the document, or more specifically, under Section 3.9, Transportation of the DSEIS.

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Intercity Transit staff did however meet with staff from a local engineering firm representing the applicant. We discussed possible bus stop alignments on both sides of Littlerock Road and provided details concerning bus stops and street furniture (shelters). The stated intent from the representative was to consider and plan for bus stop activity and the relation of the stops to pedestrian walkways leading to the front of the store. None of the work considered during these meeting though appears within the DSEIS or on site plan drawings. The DSEIS provides little in addressing other transportation options and modes for the public or for store employees, and provides limited reference to minimizing pedestrian and vehicle conflicts at street crossings.

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The following items are provided for the purpose of reminding the applicant and the City of Tumwater as to current transit service levels as well as suggestions for items that could be used to address and mitigate the impact of a large scale development:

Current Transit Service by the Proposed Development

The project site is served by Intercity Transit Route 12, a “primary route” that operates between Tumwater and downtown Olympia. This route currently operates every 30 minutes during peak hours (morning and late afternoon) weekdays, from 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m., and hourly service on Saturdays, from 8:15 am – 11 pm, and hourly on Sundays, from 9:15 am – 8:30 pm.

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Route 12 also provides transfer connections with the “trunk” Route 13 (Tumwater – Olympia) at the State’s L&I Building in Tumwater and other transfer connections at the Tumwater Transfer Station on Cleveland Ave with Routes 68 (Lacey, Tumwater, Olympia) and Route 43 (Tumwater, SPSCC, Olympia).

Route 12 ridership levels are the among the highest along Littlerock Road, too.

Transit Improvements Needed

- A) Bus stops and pedestrian pathways on both sides of Littlerock Road that meet federal ADA accessibility guidelines.
- B) If the proposed Kingswood Drive realignment occurs, bus stop locations should be co-located to the areas where the proposed pedestrian pathway extends between the Littlerock sidewalk and the front of the store. In addition, a pedestrian crosswalk on Littlerock Road, including a mid-road refuge should be required, connecting or in the vicinity of the stops, and improving pedestrian safety.
- C) Bus stop shelters with benches and adequate lighting for night time visibility
- D) Bicycle stations and/or lockers at the bus stops and in the vicinity of the store front that encourages alternative modes.
- E) The proposed pedestrian pathway through the parking lot should be covered and lighted. Given the frequency of precipitation in this part of the country it would advisable to require this feature.

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Bus Stop Pull-outs

While Intercity Transit does not generally request bus stop pull-outs as part of corridor improvement, we recognize that Tumwater’s own guidelines may dictate its inclusion.

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Further Assistance

For further discussions or assistance regarding public transit in and along Littlerock Road, bus stop placements, amenities or ADA accessibility, please free to contact me at your earliest convenience. I can be reached by phone at: 360.705.5832 or email: dbloom@intercitytransit.com

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