

Hello All,

I am so proud of the amazing community support and compassion we showed in quickly responding to the Skagit River I5 bridge collapse. It is truly a miracle that we have no fatalities - and only non-life threatening injuries from the incident.

All our City and County agencies showed their heroism. Many kudos to our first responders – officers were immediately on scene to assist in rescue, and our patrol officers moved quickly to provide traffic control at College Way and Kincaid Street exits. Mount Vernon Fire Battalion Chief Mike Voss was incident commander on scene and provided solid leadership to the rescue operations. Police Chief Dodd, Fire Chief Hari, Police Lieutenants Greg Booth and Chris Cammock provided outstanding leadership in the command center.

So what's next?

Public Works Director Esco Bell is working closely with WSDOT, Burlington & Skagit County to plan out alternate routes. There are 77,000 vehicles that use I5 every day - trucks & cars... PLEASE BE PATIENT in travelling in the region. **Detour routes are proving to be complex with the amount of vehicles and trucks that must be accommodated.** The lead agency is Washington State Department of Transportation, and we are engaged hourly in order to work through the traffic issues.

We will post information as soon as possible – and after the information we receive has been confirmed.

I also want to assure you that we are also in contact with the Governor and other state and federal officials to encourage the most expeditious way to rebuild this extremely vital bridge. Our State and Federal delegation is engaged.

In the meantime, Mount Vernon remains open. We will do everything possible to support our businesses to encourage visitors and area residents to enjoy our community.

Working together as we always have, the Mount Vernon family will come together to meet this challenge and show our incredible strength of character and resilience.

We will endeavor to update our website with the most recent information from Washington State Department of Transportation. www.mountvernonwa.gov

You may visit the WSDOT site at: www.wsdot.wa.gov