



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 12, 2014**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Mount Vernon Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection Project, Phase 2 of 3 set for September 20<sup>th</sup>**

MOUNT VERNON – A new era for downtown Mount Vernon begins on Saturday, September 20, when a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for Phase 2 of the Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection Project, which creates a 24-foot wide pedestrian river walk, a 30,000 square foot Riverfront Park and a permanent downtown floodwall.

**The ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, at the new Skagit Riverwalk Park between Gates and Montgomery Streets. The plaza area will be open to the public for the ceremony, and then Strider Construction will continue working on finishing touches for the next few weeks.**

Phase 2 includes the construction of approximately 1,650 linear feet of concrete floodwall to protect the historic downtown area, 1,650 linear feet of a 24-foot wide river walk and trail connection to a regional trail system, and the construction of the 30,000 square foot public Skagit Riverwalk Park. The project also includes the addition of public restrooms, which will be located at the southeast corner of Gates and Main Street.

Phase 1 was completed in October 2010 and includes 1,300 linear feet of floodwall and river trail from the Division Street Bridge north to Lions Park. Phase 2 includes the area from the Division Street Bridge to just south of Kincaid Street.

Phase 2 is funded with the assistance of a few key partners: the State of Washington, through the State Capital Budget; Recreation Conservation Office (RCO); State Department of Ecology (DOE); Skagit County Dike District #3; Skagit County; and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Section 108 Loan Program.

RCO/WWRP Trails Grant (2011-2013)	781,200
ALEA Grant (2011-2013)	500,000
RCO Park Plaza Grant (2013)	500,000
State Capital Budget (2011-2013)	2,200,000
DOE Stormwater Grant (2013)	351,000
Skagit Rural County/Economic Dev Grant	500,000
City Funds	400,000
Dike District No. 3	1,000,000
CDBG Section 108 Loan	1,000,000
<b>Total Phase 2 Construction Funding</b>	<b>7,232,200</b>

Funding is being sought for Phase 3, which will enable the City to complete the project. Once funding is secured, Phase 3 will include 1.2 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, .9 miles of river walk and trail connection to a regional trail system. Completion of Phase 3 will also result in FEMA certified flood protection for the historic downtown.

The project is part of a comprehensive redevelopment plan for Mount Vernon's historic downtown area that is being used to guide public and private investments over the next 20 years.

The Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan is designed to build on and enhance existing retail activity along First Street, and create a vibrant, attractive, and safe waterfront and downtown, with enhanced public access to the shoreline and river, new and improved public amenities, and mixed-use redevelopment that will generate new jobs and create housing that preserves the character of downtown Mount Vernon.

**For further information, contact:**

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