



September 21, 2022

Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Attn: Jeremiah Cromie, Planner II

RE: LPF-22-00007 – Forest Ridge Ph. 5
SR 903, Cle Elum vicinity

We have reviewed the subject proposal and have the following comments.

- The subject property is in the vicinity of Interstate 90 (I-90), State Route 970 (SR 970), State Route 903 (SR 903), and State Route 903 Spur (SR 903 SP). We anticipate the majority of vehicle trips generated by this proposal will utilize these facilities. It is the benefit of the state, county, city and proponent to ensure these facilities continue to operate within acceptable safety and operational thresholds.
- WSDOT originally reviewed and commented on this project in our letter to the county dated February 4, 2010. As stated in our comments, vehicle trips generated by this proposal could adversely affect the operation of several intersections along SR 903 and given the continuous growth occurring in upper Kittitas County, the original traffic analysis for this project is no longer valid. Over the last 12 years, several transportation improvements, including newly constructed roadways, have been completed in and around the city of Cle Elum. Conversely, previously planned improvements to the area's roadways, such as modifications to the east Cle Elum interchange and SR 903 SP have not occurred. Given these changes to the built environment, the delayed start of this project will likely result in unforeseen adverse impacts to the transportation network. Therefore, we recommend the county require an updated Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) be performed at this time. The TIA should include updated baseline conditions and horizon year and reevaluate the overall project's impact to the existing transportation system, including a comprehensive traffic safety component. Any mitigation to WSDOT-controlled facilities must conform to current department standards and policies, as well as be reviewed and approved by WSDOT.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jacob Prilucik at (509) 577-1635.

Sincerely,

Paul Gonseth, P.E.
Region Planning Engineer

PG: jjp
cc: SR 903, File #2022_002 & #2010_001