



## **Highlights of the regular Commission meeting of May 7, 2008**

### Columbia River Pedestrian Bridge Engineering Study

The Commission formalized its commitment of \$10,000 to join with a number of local organizations to fund an engineering study for the repairs needed to allow the historic bridge to continue to carry irrigation water and to serve as a vital component in the riverfront trail system. In making this financial commitment, the Commission found that:

*"The pedestrian bridge is a significant means for pedestrian traffic that would otherwise increase the impacts and congestion on the George Sellar Bridge. The Port has invested money in the Wenatchee riverfront marina which is accessed by the bridge and waterfront trails. The trail system is an important component in promoting the region for firms relocating to the Wenatchee Valley and is important to the economic development activities of several entities that the Port supports (Chambers, Visitor and Convention Bureau, etc). The Port has explored and has planned for a connection to the trail system from its Old Station Business Park."*

### Cashmere Mill Site Feasibility Study

Berk & Associates were awarded a contract for the targeted marketing and industry cluster analysis portion of the CERB funded Cashmere mill site feasibility study. It was noted that the scope of work will need to be refined and specific project deliverables identified before the contract is signed. Berk and Associates will team up with local contractors Alliance Consulting and RH2 Engineering to examine a variety of physical development options for the property. It is expected that all consulting work will be completed within the next six months.

### Development Partners Contract

The recently completed and much discussed Port of Seattle performance audit identified areas where that Commission was not fully engaged in an appropriate level of oversight of consulting contracts. In view of this, the Commission authorized an amendment to an agreement with Development Partners that clarified the role of the Commission in approving compensation for transactions that exceed \$25,000.

### First Quarter 2008 Budget

The Port's internal auditor Monica Lough briefly reviewed the first quarter 2008 budget versus actual spending report with Commissioners. With very few exceptions, spending is in line with the approved budget.

### 2008 Prius Conversion

The Port recently converted its new Prius hybrid to a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV), its second such conversion. The 6 hour conversion was among the first for technicians at a private facility in Seattle that will be exclusively certified to perform installations of the A123Systems/ Hymotion plug-in hybrid conversion kit. This summer and fall, the certified techs will oversee thirteen Prius-to-plug-in conversions at Wenatchee Valley College. The conversions are associated with the statewide Plug-in Hybrid Pilot Project created and coordinated by the Port. The project includes 14 agency vehicles of which five vehicles are in the Wenatchee Valley. In addition to WVC, Idaho National Laboratory is also a key partner in this project, and the Port welcomes their interest and active participation in cultivating innovation in Chelan County. The newly converted Prius, the first to be converted for the Pilot Project, was driven in the Classy Chassis and the Apple Blossom Festival Grand parades; in a weekend round-trip test-drive from the Wenatchee Center to Alcoa, the Port's PHEV averaged 138 miles per gallon.

### Executive Session

An executive session was held to discuss real estate matters. No action was taken.