

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner, District 2

DATE: March 10, 2025

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT re: Naming the bridge connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands as Passage Through Bridge

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA) is petitioning the Washington State Transportation Commission to name the bridge connecting Indian and Marrowstone Island Passage Through Bridge. They have asked for the County's support for that effort.

ANALYSIS:

The MICA undertook a rigorous community effort to decide on a name for the bridge constructed in 2019 that reconnected Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay to its south. The passage between the two islands had been blocked for approximately 100 years prior to the bridge's construction. That passage was named "Passage Through" in 2023 by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Given that the passage under the bridge is called the Passage Through the community thought it made good sense to name the bridge over that passage the "Passage Through Bridge." And, given the extensive effort to involve the relevant tribes and community residents in the naming exercise the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners might consider supporting their request.

Attached is a letter of support for the Board's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the attached letter and approve it as is or revise it as desired.


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

3/7/25
Date



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Heather Dudley-Nollette, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

March 10, 2025

Washington State Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47308
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

SUBJECT: Naming the Bridge Between Indian and Marrowstone Islands

We are writing in support of the Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA) Bridge Naming Committee. The MICA undertook a rigorous community effort to decide on a name for the bridge constructed in 2019 that reconnected Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay to its south. The passage between the two islands had been blocked for approximately 100 years prior to the bridge's construction. That passage was named "Passage Through" in 2023 by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The MICA bridge naming effort included the Jamestown, Port Gamble and Lower Elwa S'Klallam Tribes through their combined Cultural Committee, which was instrumental in the naming of the passage underneath the new bridge. The MICA conducted extensive community outreach to involve as many community residents in the naming effort as possible.

The committee went through an iterative process soliciting naming suggestions from the tribes and community members. That process started with 49 different proposed names and gradually whittled the list down to one name: Passage Through Bridge.

Given that the passage under the bridge is called the Passage Through it makes good sense to name the bridge over that passage the "Passage Through Bridge." And, given the extensive effort to involve the relevant tribes and community residents in the naming exercise the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners strongly recommends that the Washington State Transportation Commission approve the MICA's recommendation.

Sincerely,

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Heather Dudley-Nollette,
District 1

Heidi Eisenhour,
District 2

Greg Brotherton,
District 3