

**From:** Bryan Flint [mailto:BryanFlint@TahomaAudubon.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2007 6:33 PM  
**Subject:** [nocrossbase] Status of Cross Base and RTID

Board members, Allies, and Friends of Tahoma Audubon,

On Friday morning the Cross Base Coalition and our friends in state wide environmental groups participated in a high pressure negotiation the likes few of us have participated in. The result was a compromise that had the following elements.

Funding added for cross base in order to give County Executive a way out of the box he put himself into.

That money consisted of:

- \$10 million for mitigation and environmental enhancements. This includes money for impacts to the equestrian community.
- \$60 million that is dependant on successful mediation. Could be used on cross base or 176<sup>th</sup> depending on the results of the mediation.
- \$30 million for Cross Base. Money cannot be spent until after the mediation.
- Mediation does not start until January 2009, when County Executive will be term limited out of office.
- The mediation will start with a fresh look at the traffic problem in South Pierce County and how to solve it, leaving the opportunity for something other then cross base. It will have priority consideration of preventing impacts to Oak Prairie habitat.

This was a difficult compromise to come to under difficult circumstances. The most difficult part was that Conservation NW could not, in good conscience, agree to the compromise. Our fundamental partner from the beginning, Conservation NW was essential to getting us this far. The decision to split on this compromise was made with the full awareness that it was made in line with the view point and philosophy of our respective organizations.

At the end of April I do not think anyone would have thought we would have gotten as far as we did to get cross base "off the list". Because the state wide environmental community had taken on our cause we had bargaining power. It was the political dynamic that got us as far as we did. In the final weeks, the political dynamic had turned into an ugly dog fight. Going into Thursday night we had four votes from the County Council to put cross base back in, a majority of the seven member Council. Word was that some of the council members from King and Snohomish where inclined to support the majority. I felt we faced the very real possibility that Shawn Bunney and Tim Farrell, who could keep cross base off the list felt we had a good compromise and may switch their vote to be with the majority. If that had happened we would have a total loss with cross base back in with none of the conditions above.

I also felt we had a responsibility to take into consideration the concessions the state wide environmental groups had won, and 50 miles of light rail in the package.

Given this dynamic, I believe we made the best choice; each of us in line with our conscience.

Thank you to everyone who put time and energy into this fight over the years and the last few weeks. For me it has always been about doing what is right, not what is easy. To make a difference for those who do not have a voice. To challenge power when it is wrong. To work with people of integrity, vision and tenacity. To reverse the power of despair into that of hope. To open up the opportunity for redemption. No fight has ever symbolized and created such a dynamic opportunity realize these qualities in such great relief as this one.

Below are some key news clips including the editorial we wrote that appeared in Friday's TNT.

Our editorial:

### [Cross-base still a threat to regional roads package](#)

Published June 7th, 2007 - 1:00AM

Pierce County officials seeking a compromise on a regional roads package have moved more money around in the last couple of days than a roomful of bank tellers. [Read more...](#)

Editorials:

### [Down-to-the-wire talks pay off for Pierce County](#)

Published June 10th, 2007 - 1:00AM

The miraculous news arrived via an e-mail from Cross-Base Negotiations Central at 2:28 a.m. Friday: "I think we might have a deal." [Read more...](#)

### [Region needs a deal in cross-base dispute](#)

Published June 5th, 2007 - 1:00AM

Years of work on an answer to Puget Sound-area traffic congestion have come down to a mad scramble for consensus in Pierce County. [Read more...](#)

News Coverage:

### [Cross-base highway survives](#)

TheNewsTribune.com (subscription) - Tacoma,WA,USA

"We feel like we have a medium to address the environmental issues that have so far been ignored," said **Bryan Flint**, executive director of the Tahoma ...

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### [County executive goes green](#)

TheNewsTribune.com (subscription) - Tacoma,WA,USA

Neither has **Bryan Flint**, executive director of the Tahoma Audubon Society. "I think no one questions executive Ladenburg's environmental record," Flint said ...

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