

## **Coalition Chairman Fred Walser Update – Feb. 1, 2008**

The morning after the Jan. 31, 2008 House Transportation Hearing, Coalition Chairman Fred Walser and Vice-chair Donnetta Walser attended the Good Roads Association's breakfast meeting in Olympia's Red Lion Inn -- <http://www.wsgrrta.com/legislativebreakfast.htm>

The Association hosted Secretary of Transportation Paula Hammond, State Transportation Committee Chair Mary Margaret Haugen, and the House Transportation Committee Chair, Judy Clibborn. Good Roads is a statewide organization of both public and private interests based out of Wenatchee.

In addressing the audience, Sen. Haugen and Rep. Clibborn referred specifically to the needs of U. S. 2, and expressed their desires for plans to help; Clibborn gave special recognition and thanks to the U. S. 2 Safety Coalition Chairman Fred Walser not only for testimony at the hearing, but also for "bringing your group" to testify, making a special point to express her appreciation, a sentiment she said was echoed by her fellow Committee members, many of whom "were deeply moved by the testimony of personal tragedies on U. S. 2." Both Haugen and Clibborn added: "Fred has been working hard on behalf of the U. S. 2 Safety Coalition and we're going to have to find some ways to help him out there. Clibborn added, "We're going to try to do more than just adding rumble strips."

It was clear from the comments expressed during the Good Roads breakfast meeting that "the legislature's definitely aware of U. S. 2, and seeking remedies for us."

Later that day the Walsers met with Sen. Haugen. During that private meeting the Senator shared her belief that she'll be able to fund an additional detachment of Washington State Troopers based in Monroe to help beef up U. S. 2's enforcement. Additionally, she's directed an aide to review some of the smaller safety projects identified in the recently-released U. S. 2 RDP (Route Development Plan) which can help make a difference to safety in east county.