

# SNEAK TO THE PEAK

## RIDGEFIELD CELEBRATES RAIL OVERPASS COMPLETION!

The Port of Ridgefield celebrated the completion of the Pioneer Street Rail Overpass on Sept. 11 with its Sneak to the Peak event. Although the overpass wouldn't officially open for another week, the port's event coincided with other community events billed as "Ridgefield's Really BIG Day". On Sept. 17, vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists could all make the trek across the overpass. The project was big on vision and a long time in-the-making.

Over 20 years ago Port Commissioner Joe Melroy posited that a rail overpass would be a good thing for Ridgefield. Port CEO Brent Grening remembers the moment. "There had been accidents and deaths on the tracks," Grening said. "In talking about it one day Commissioner Melroy said if we want the Ridgefield waterfront to be a safe place to visit, we need a rail overpass. We agreed, so as the only local agency empowered to do this kind of work, we ran with it."

The project would prove to be a daunting one. The millions of dollars in funding required would have to be raised from state and federal sources, and federal and state agencies and BNSF Railway required necessary permits and approval. Also, the presence of White Tail deer in the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge required a second environmental impact study causing a months-long construction delay. But at last, the rail overpass can be crossed off the port's to-do list!



During the celebration of the Pioneer Street Rail Overpass completion on Sept. 11, people gathered under warm, blue skies to listen to the words of several speakers.

"We so appreciate our state and federal legislators. They all supported this project to help us get funding."  
**Scott Hughes, Commission Chair**  
Port of Ridgefield

"This safety project is a great example of what we can do when we all work together."  
**Sen. Ann Rivers**

"The community works so well together to build things – I'm excited to see what else Ridgefield can do."  
**Rep. Brandon Vick**



Directly after the port's Sneak to the Peak event on Sept. 11 to celebrate the completion of the Pioneer Street Rail Overpass, elected officials and others participated in a ribbon cutting event. From left: Laurie Olin, Port of Ridgefield Vice President of Operations; Rep. Larry Hoff; Bruce Wiseman, Port of Ridgefield Commissioner; Don Stose, City of Ridgefield Mayor; Scott Hughes, Port of Ridgefield Commission Chair; Rep. Brandon Vick, and Joe Melroy, Port of Ridgefield Commissioner.



At the Port of Ridgefield's Sneak to Peak event on Sept. 11, a train did just what it's supposed to do now: it traveled UNDER the overpass!



At the port's Sneak to the Peak event on Sept. 11 to celebrate the completion of the Pioneer Street Rail Overpass, the Port of Ridgefield Commission and CEO presented an award to Laurie Olin, Vice President of Operations. Olin was honored for her 21-year commitment to the community and port. Her contributions included the construction of the Pioneer Street Rail Overpass and the port's 20-year waterfront clean-up. From left: Joe Melroy, Port of Ridgefield Commissioner; Laurie Olin, Port of Ridgefield Vice President of Operations; Scott Hughes, Port of Ridgefield Commission Chair; Bruce Wiseman, Port of Ridgefield Commissioner and Brent Grening, Port of Ridgefield CEO.

- THANK YOU to the many individuals and agencies that helped make the rail overpass a reality!**
- U.S. Congressional Legislators**  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler
  - Washington State Legislators**  
Curtis King  
Judy Clibborn  
Larry Hoff  
Brandon Vick  
Senator Ann Rivers
  - Washington State Department of Transportation**  
Carolyn Simmonds  
Michael Williams  
Keith Molyneux  
Nils Robe
  - City of Ridgefield**  
City Council Members  
Steve Stuart  
Bryan Kast
  - U.S. Department of Transportation**
  - U.S. Federal Rail Administration**
  - BNSF Railway**  
Stephen Semenick
  - Regional Transportation Council**  
Matt Ransom  
Dale Robin  
Lynda Davies  
Dean Lookingbill
  - Jacobs Engineering**  
Shawn Henry  
Aaron Sherry  
Kevin Kim  
Ed Blodget