



*** For Immediate Release – Media Release ***

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Government and Media Relations

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WSP Presents Apple King with Award for Life-Saving Donation

Date: Monday, August 27, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: 3581 Mapleway Road, Yakima, 98908

The event will be held in the grass area between US 12 and Apple King.

Speakers: Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste
Washington State Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Keith Metcalf
Owners of Apple King

Yakima - Drivers will have a new acceleration lane to use along US 12 in Yakima thanks to the generous donation by Apple King of Washington LLC.

On Monday, August 27, 2018, Washington State Patrol (WSP) Chief John R. Batiste awarded Apple King of Washington LLC the “Quality of Recognition Award” for their \$170,000 donation that will help keep motorists and commercial vehicle drivers safe on US 12.

The donation funds a third of a \$523,000 price tag for the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) contractor crews to construct an eastbound acceleration lane on US 12 near Mapleway Road. The new acceleration lane will give semi-drivers the necessary room and distance to safely speed up before entering the 60 mph roadway. Construction on the new lane began on August 22 and is expected to be completed by early-September.

Currently, drivers must cross a two-lane highway and stop in a narrow media before entering eastbound traffic when leaving the Apple King facility. This has led to multiple serious collisions near Mapleway Road where Apple King is located. After the serious collisions, the WSP began emphasis patrols during peak traffic period to curb “failure-to-yield” driving behaviors. The WSP also worked

tirelessly with WSDOT to find a non-enforcement solution to the problem. The solution was to install an acceleration lane.

Last year, a similar project took place with Kershaw Fruit and Cold Storage to create an acceleration lane along US 12 near Low Road. There have been no major collisions or local traffic complaints since the installation of the acceleration lane.

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste says, "I cannot thank the leadership team of Apple King enough for their progressive thinking and creative and financial input. The community will be a safer place to live and work thanks to their exceptional contribution towards traffic safety."

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