

Developers will support Avon Bypass

Members of the Skagit County Development Association last night went on record as favoring and supporting the proposed Avon Bypass.

Skagit County Engineer Lloyd Johnson appeared before association members last night at a

meeting in Burlington's City Hall to describe the bypass and explain its function as a flood control project.

In taking last night's action, association members also agreed to have their secretary send letters backing the proposal to the 40th

District's three legislators — State Sen. Ralph Rickdall and State Rep. Duane Berentson and Don Eldridge.

LITTLE DIFFICULTY

Johnson told the association that he expects little difficulty in obtaining federal and local financing for the project. He added however that proponents of the bypass may encounter some difficulty in obtaining funds from the state to build three bridges across the bypass.

Last night's meeting also included discussion by members and by Johnson of proposals to dredge the Skagit River for navigation. Leo Sullivan, a representative to the association from the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, noted that United States Army Engineers recently set the estimated cost of a river dredging project at \$1,500,000.

Sullivan based his report on figures divulged at a recent meeting in Mount Vernon. He said Army Corps of Engineers officials also estimate it will take about two years to perform the dredging project.

ON RECORD

Another Mount Vernon Chamber representative, W. Ray Truax, noted the association already had gone on record as favoring a Skagit River dredging project. He suggested that members now continue support for the plan by having the association address letters to Washington State's Congressional delegation and explain in such letters the industrial and navigational possibilities which might result from river dredging.

Johnson told association members that federal funds would be used exclusively for any dredging project. He said no local financial participation via matching funds would be required.