

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

The Washington State Department of Transportation would like you to know: As of 7am this morning, travelers on State Route 20 going through Port Townsend will encounter a detour on Sims Way/State Route 20 at Kearney Street around the construction of a new roundabout. Traffic heading eastbound towards Port Townsend will turn right at Benedict Street (between the Safeway gas station and the Port Townsend Garden Center), then turn left on Washington Street, then turn right where Washington street merges with Sims Way. Traffic going westbound away from Port Townsend will turn right at Kearney Street and left onto Jefferson Street to continue on State Route 20. This detour configuration will last approximately four weeks.

Travelers heading to the Port Townsend/Coupeville ferry may want to build some extra time into their trips. (I think WASHDOT means they should.) Travelers can sign up for email alerts for construction in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Find the latest information about highway closures on the WSDOT app and the WSDOT statewide travel map. Hyperlinks are on the transcript of this newscast for:

- Construction of a new roundabout: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/sr-20-kearney-st-i-s-roundabout>
- Email alerts: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new>
- WSDOT app: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/mobile-app-and-social-media>
- WSDOT statewide travel map: <https://wsdot.com/Travel/Real-time/Map/>
- Project hotline 360-565-0620

This project, as we reported last week, will take the existing intersection on State Route 20 at Kearney Street in Port Townsend and convert it into a single-lane roundabout.

“Ukraine Eye Witness: A Report from the Front” is tonight, Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm, in Port Townsend at the local Friends Meeting House at 1841 Sheridan Street. I spoke with Mr. Lumsdaine last Friday:

TRANSCRIPT:

Jim Burke: “What would people expect to see or hear about tonight?”

Peter Lumsdaine: “A direct report from Ukrainian people that I and the other members of our 4-person delegation spoke with in Kyiv, in Dnipro, in Zaporizhzhia, in Mariupol. We really want to underline and emphasize direct testimonies from Ukrainians about the crisis and the situation there. Obviously, that can open into a larger discussion about policy and so forth, but that’s what I’ve tried to lead with and I think people have appreciated that. Our delegation went very close to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, currently controlled by the Russian military. We went through the Ukrainian countryside, Kyiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, and the mining town of Mariupol. If people are interested in getting a direct report from a range of Ukrainian people, from government officials to factory workers, miners, journalists, health professionals, people who agreed and disagreed with their government’s policy – that’s what I would emphasize.”

Jim Burke: “How do people feel it’s going there right now?”

Peter Lumsdaine: “We were there just before the Ukrainian military operations for the summer counteroffensive began, so they were doing what’s called shaping operations. We were in Zaporizhzhia old block which is now very much at the front line of what’s happening close to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. One thing that everybody agrees on is that the situation and conflict there is very tragic and yet the spirit of the people, I think, is strong and they are trying to persist. There are different perspectives and opinions about

where this needs to go from here and that's we're trying to share with people back in the United States. I will note that the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is in an area where the Zaporizhzhia Protection Project which I went in the auspices of, informally connected to Physicians for Social Responsibility, is trying to find common ground around the prevention of a massive nuclear power plant accident and nuclear storage waste accident which would affect every side in this conflict and far beyond. So that's one of the concerns we are focused on."

Jim Burke: "Is it entirely possible that the Ukrainian army can get the power plant back? Or is that the last hill to die on?"

Peter Lumsdaine: "That's a very complex question and I think we'll talk about that on Tuesday evening. There's a lot about the future of this very fraught and tragic situation and yet a lot of strength among the Ukrainian people, that is yet to be decided. So I can certainly fill people in on the details of what we heard, what we saw, where this might be going. And also to say that as a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility's Committee for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, there's a huge concern around Ukraine and globally that this conflict could potentially escalate to a nuclear superpower showdown. That's something that we all want to avoid. That also is a dimension in this summer of *Oppenheimer*. That's definitely an aspect that we want to discuss and address."

A longer interview will be part of Attention Please! this coming Monday or the Monday following.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and noon on Saturday. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.