



NEWS RELEASE

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Council Approves Real Estate Excise Tax Funds for Road & Bridge Improvements

[*Everett, Wash.*] The Snohomish County Council approved unanimously today a measure by Councilman Jeff Sax to establish as a priority expenditure of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)* dollars towards road and bridge improvements.

“Our constituents consistently rank transportation improvements as one of their top concerns,” stated Councilman Jeff Sax. “Existing policy using an initial 20 year outlook for transportation funding reveals uncertainty about funding needed safety and capacity road and bridge projects, therefore Council decided to take this step to ensure a revenue stream and provide policy direction for those funds.”

Over the last decade, road and bridge capital projects have received very little REET funding, in fact the 2004 adopted road and bridge capital projects, received no REET funding.

“REET revenues adopted in the 2004 budget are projected to be in excess of \$11.3 million dollars,” concluded Sax. “It is the intent of the County Council to establish a policy to use a portion of these REET revenues to fund road projects specifically.”

*Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) has three components (from motion 04-240):

1. The sale of real property within Snohomish County is taxed, with the rate applied to the selling price and paid by the seller to the County Treasurer; of this amount 1% is retained by the County’s General Fund to defray costs of collection RCW 82.46.030.
2. An additional one quarter of one percent tax is imposed on the sale of real property and is retained by the local government in which the property is located and must be expended in accordance with the requirements of RCW 82.46.010(2).
3. A 2nd one quarter of one percent tax is imposed on the sale of real property and is retained by the local government in which the property is located and must be expended in accordance with the requirements of RCW 82.46.035.

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