



Snohomish County Council

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Release: Wednesday October 19, 2005  
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### **Increased Developer Fees to Help Fix Congested Roads**

The Snohomish County Council moved closer to increasing developer fees to target some of the county's most congested roads. The council unanimously endorsed a proposal, requested by Councilmember Jeff Sax, to increase the fees developers pay for traffic mitigation. The proposal will come back to the council for final action in December when the county's Ten Year Update of its Comprehensive Plan is considered.

The fees would go up about 9% on a new single family home, increasing by about \$200. It would add over \$13 million to the county road fund. In all, about \$108 million would be collected from mitigation fees over the next 20 years. That's about 25% of the money the county plans to spend on improvements to its most congested county roads.

Sax said, "Prior county councils have refused to look at fee increases. This council has had the courage to engage the development community and get their concurrence on two fee increases." The first increase of 30% was approved in 2002. This second increase would make certain the fees keep pace with increased construction costs which are expected to rise by about 18 per cent.

The proposed fee increase has been approved by the county Planning Commission.

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