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Open House planned for 20th Street SE road improvement project

Residents and commuters in the Lake Stevens area will have their first opportunity April 27 to view preliminary design plans for the much-anticipated 20th Street SE Road Improvements project. The open house and scoping meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Skyline Elementary School Gymnasium, 1033 91st Avenue. Representatives from the County, its consultants and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will display project designs, maps and other graphics, and answer questions about the project. Staff also will gather comments on the design alternatives and environmental concerns.

The proposed project calls for widening 20th Street SE from 91st Avenue SE to the S. Lake Stevens Road. It is designed to reduce congestion and improve travel time and accessibility between residential areas and commercial centers in this fast-growing section of the county. The project also seeks to improve pedestrian safety by adding sidewalks and walkways along the roadway. In addition, drainage and detention facilities are proposed to address stormwater runoff and water quality.

The project will be built in two phases. The West phase will widen 20th Street SE between 91st and 99th Avenues SE from two lanes to

five lanes, including a center-turn lane, bike lanes, curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The East phase will widen 20th Street SE from 99th Avenue SE to S. Lake Stevens Road. It will add a center-turn lane to the existing two lanes and add bike lanes, curbs, gutters and sidewalks. It also will realign the north and south legs of S. Lake Stevens Road at the intersection with 20th Street SE.

Pending the environmental review process, permit approvals and right-of-way purchase, construction is scheduled to start on the East phase in 2007 and on the West phase in 2008.

Snohomish County currently is taking comments concerning the project for its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be issued later this year.

For more information, contact Project Manager Max Phan at (425) 388-3109, Environmental Planner Scott White at (425) 388-3488, x4518 or Public Involvement Associate Tina Hokanson at (425) 388-3488, x4514. TDD/TTY users call WA Relay Center at 1-800-833-6388. For information on other major road construction projects, call the Snohomish County Road Construction Hotline at 1-866-SNO-ROAD (866-766-7623) or visit the "Roads Central" website at <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/roads/RoadsCentral/RCHome.htm>.

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