



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Council Approves Fast-Track Roads Plan

The Snohomish County Council today put a series of important transportation improvements in high gear, approving an ordinance to bond road funds and speed up planned construction. Called the Enhanced Community Infrastructure Development Initiative, it provides funding for over \$36 million in projects. The E-CIDI also includes funds for important surface water development projects.

The plan builds on a \$12.6 million proposal made by Executive Aaron Reardon earlier this year. The council has added complete funding for several key transportation projects such as the 20th Ave. SE project east of the Hewitt Avenue/US-2 Trestle. Funding is also included for safety studies for Highway 2, designated one of the most dangerous highways in the United States. And there are projects that improve surface water management problems.

County Council Vice Chair Dave Gossett said, "Bonding these projects gets us the money now so we can get to construction over the next several years, rather than waiting and waiting while people are stuck in traffic." County Council Chair Kirke Sievers added, "These projects are all important. Unless we go out and get the funding now, some of these projects would not even be started until after the year 2012."

Councilmember Dave Somers hailed the inclusion of safety projects on Highway 2. "This is one of the most dangerous roads anywhere," he said. "We can use this money along with funds coming from the state and federal sources and begin making real improvements." Councilmember John Koster added, "It's important that we are making these improvements, but we are not raising taxes. These projects are backed by revenues that we know are coming to the county."

Councilmember Gary Nelson voted against the bond package. He questioned whether the package of projects was too big, whether there are enough construction workers to do the jobs, and questioned the phasing of some projects such as at 20th Street SE. The final vote by the council was 4 – 1.

County Executive Aaron Reardon said, "Snohomish County has taken a bold step toward a strong and healthy future, thanks to the hard work and commitment of the County Council, County Executive's office and staff."

The bonding for the Enhanced Community Infrastructure Development Initiative is included in a larger bond ordinance that also includes funding for key county projects. Those include a maintenance center and the Sheriff's gun range and impound lot at Cathcart, improvements at Paine Field, and numerous community parks projects.

Testimony in favor of the package of projects came from members of the development community, labor, and realtors.

List of Representative Projects in E-CIDI

Project	Cost
Roads:	
34th Ave NW & 128th St NW	\$1,000,000
51st Ave NE & 136th St NE	\$1,750,000
51st Ave NE & 100th St NE	\$1,750,000
Bev-Ed Road: Lynnwood C/D to Beverly Park Edmonds Road--key intersections	\$3,128,000
Bev-Ed Road: 52nd Ave W to Picnic Pt Rd/Shelby Rd	\$1,564,000
35th & Seattle Hill Road intersection	\$2,220,000
35th Ave SE & 180th intersection	\$1,000,000
Eastshore Dr: 164th St SW to Cascadian Dr; 2nd Ave W to Martha Lake Airport Park: sidewalk	\$3,000,000
North Road & Jonathon Rd: realignment	\$630,000
20th St.	\$6,500,000
4th Ave W & 108th St NE intersection	\$2,200,000
180th St SE & Broadway Ave intersection	\$1,500,000
US2 Safety Coalition Matching Funds	\$1,500,000
Marine Dr. Walkway	\$485,000
110th St. Walkway	\$133,000
Locust Way Walkway	\$233,100
47th Dr. NE Walkway	\$108,000
143rd St. SW Walkway	\$150,000
91st Ave SE Walkway	\$94,000
128th St. sidewalk improvements	\$1,400,000
SWM:	
Eastmont drainage improvements	\$885,000

Retrofit detention pond 4th Ave SE (NC-NP-13)	\$218,000
Remove abandoned road crossing of Point Creek (PS-PP-31)	\$16,000