



Snohomish County

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County secures full funding for Granite Falls route

With the recent passage of the federal Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Bill and final adoption of the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) federal economic recovery project list, Snohomish County has secured enough money to complete the Granite Falls Alternate Route project.

The county will receive nearly \$6 million between the two appropriations for the Granite Falls project, which will construct a two-lane, two-mile alternate freight route for gravel and logging trucks now driving through Granite Falls. The bypass will improve freight mobility, reduce congestion and improve public safety. More than 4.5 million tons of aggregate is trucked annually through downtown Granite Falls to points throughout northwest Washington, causing major congestion, safety and pollution problems. Total project cost is \$26.8 million.

"With strong partnership from Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Rick Larsen, the Granite Falls Alternate Route is a project that represents true partnership at the federal, state and county levels," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Not only does this project provide a solution to traffic congestion problems, it also creates work during tough economic times."

"These important state, local and federal partnership dollars will put people in our county back to work sooner and complete construction of this crucial transportation safety corridor faster," said County Council Chairman Mike Cooper.

The Snohomish County region, including its cities and transit agencies, will receive nearly \$15 million in economic recovery funding for public works projects as a result of a selection process headed by the PSRC. When leveraged with other funding sources, such as state grants and developer mitigation fees, these projects will provide more than \$54 million in countywide improvements.

The economic recovery funding will create jobs now and represents a wide range of projects across municipal and agency boundaries within Snohomish County. Projects include fish passage culvert improvements at 116th and 34th Avenue Northeast, pedestrian and bikeway safety improvements at West Marine View Drive as well as the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 5 at 196th Street Southwest.

In addition to the money for Granite Falls, the FY09 omnibus bill signed by President Obama in February includes more than \$2 million for Highway 2 safety improvements.

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