



Snohomish County
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Media Advisory—November 21, 2007

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County wins grant to improve 20th Street

Snohomish County will begin making much-needed improvements to 20th Street SE in the Lake Stevens area in 2008, thanks in part to a recent \$1.5 million grant awarded by the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).

“The 20th Street SE improvements will include pedestrian and transit-oriented elements,” County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “The project will reduce traffic congestion, increase future capacity and improve mobility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.”

The 20th Street SE improvements include peak hour High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes on certain segments, bus pullouts, sidewalks, bike lanes, illumination, planted medians and several new traffic lights.

Snohomish County Public Works Director Steve Thomsen said, “The construction will occur in two phases. The first phase beginning in 2008 will be on the portion of 20th Street SE between South Lake Stevens Road and 91st Avenue SE. The 2nd and final stage, between 91st SE and the US2 Trestle, will begin construction in 2009 using the new grant money from TIB.”

The Washington State Legislature created the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to foster state investment in quality local transportation projects and distributes revenue generated by a portion of the statewide gas tax to cities and counties for qualifying local projects. Thirty-four projects in the Puget Sound region competed for TIB’s Urban Corridor Program funds. Snohomish County’s project was one of only four selected to receive funding.

To be awarded funding by the TIB, the application had to demonstrate, among other things, how the project will support and revitalize urban development and fit with the Comprehensive Plan; how it will promote multimodal transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and how it will improve safety and mobility along the corridor.

Funding for the project was also included in the Enhanced Community Infrastructure Development Initiative introduced by Executive Reardon and approved by the County Council in 2006, developer mitigation fees, and the county road fund.

Project information is available by visiting the County's website, www.snoco.org; enter "20th St" in the search box, or contact Snohomish County Public Works Project Manager, Matt Ojala, 425.388.6647.