



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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91st Avenue SE is the first of 46 new Snohomish County infrastructure projects to be constructed over the next three years

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today announced that construction has begun on the first of 46 new road, parks and surface water management projects as part of a major community infrastructure development initiative to keep ahead of the County's rapid growth. The 91st Avenue SE walkway safety project in the Lake Stevens area kicks off the three-year, \$50 million Community Infrastructure Development Initiative four months earlier than expected.

“The County is moving quickly to make the necessary investments in its roads, parks and surface water management infrastructure,” said Executive Reardon. **“The 91st Avenue SE walkway safety project represents the first of 46 new construction projects to help us keep pace with growth and preserve our quality of life.”**

The Lake Stevens area walkway project will fill a gap in an existing walkway with a 7-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of the roadway providing children with a safer path to the Hillcrest Elementary, Skyline Elementary and Lake Stevens Middle Schools. The project will cost just under \$50,000

This first walkway safety project is part of an innovative community infrastructure initiative proposed by Executive Reardon earlier this year. Approved by County Council, in June 2006 the County has leveraged its improved bonding capacity and existing available construction funds to build over \$50 million in needed infrastructure projects in three years—almost ten years ahead of schedule. Called ECIDI, the bonding proposal is allowing the County to begin construction this year and avoid the high cost of inflation and rising interest rates.

ECIDI requires no new taxes. The \$30 million in bonds sold this summer will be paid off by using existing, dedicated fund sources, much of which are generated from growth such as impact fees from new development and real estate taxes levied on the sale of new homes.

Revenue from the County road fund and County park impact fees will also be used. All but two projects are planned for completion by end of 2008.

In 2007 an additional \$3 million in walkway and road shoulder improvements will be constructed to keep children and other pedestrians safe while walking to school, work and the store. Beginning 2008, over \$24 million will be spent on 11 larger road improvement

projects in the rapidly growing areas of south and east Snohomish County to help alleviate some of our area's worst traffic congestion.

Also in 2007, thirteen County parks projects totaling \$2.9 million will be completed, adding new or enhanced playgrounds, water sprays, ball fields and other recreation amenities. And, six flood and drainage improvement projects totaling \$1.8 million will be constructed.

“Three years of tough fiscal discipline has afforded the County the opportunity to construct roads, parks and recreation facilities that will help sustain our growing populations for generations to come,” said Executive Reardon.

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