



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

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Aaron Reardon

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Senate Appropriations Committee approves \$2 million for Granite Falls Alternate Freight Route

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*Executive Reardon thanks Senator Murray
for securing funds in Senate Transportation bill*

United States Senator Patty Murray informed Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today that she was successful in securing \$2 million for the construction phase of the Granite Falls Alternate Freight Route. The appropriations earmark, which passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee today, is now headed for a vote of the full Senate.

“We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Senator Murray to fund this project,” Executive Reardon said. **“This has been one of the County’s top transportation priorities.”**

Given the fiscal pressure in Washington, D.C. this year, the \$2 million earmark represents a significant victory for Snohomish County and the City of Granite Falls.

“By routing large trucks around the City, public safety and a sense of community will be restored in downtown Granite Falls,” Executive Reardon said. **“This project increases mobility for local traffic and pedestrians, while reducing travel times and barriers to freight movement.”**

Snohomish County, in partnership with Mayor Lyle Romack and the City of Granite Falls, and the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, are set to begin construction on this 2-lane, 2.1-mile strategic freight corridor in 2008. The \$2 million will fully fund construction of the \$11.7 million east section of the project from Jordan Road to the Mount Loop Highway.

Granite Falls, a city of approximately 3,000 residents, saw more than 6 million tons of gravel pass through its downtown area last year. That is the equivalent of one truck and trailer every 30 seconds, or 2,000 trucks each day. The presence of these 75-foot trucks and trailers compromises the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

“The safety of our citizens is always of utmost concern to me,” Executive Reardon said.

The Granite Falls Alternate Freight Route will also provide additional benefits, such as:

- Upgrading the road design to Washington State Department of Transportation standards;
- Improving response times and access for emergency vehicles;
- Reducing air and noise pollution for residents and schools;
- Supporting economic redevelopment of Granite Falls’ commercial core as well as the region;
- Improving access for tourists and visitors to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; and
- Restoring a sense of community to the citizens of Granite Falls by reconnecting them to a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly downtown currently divided by heavy truck traffic.

Executive Reardon and Senator Murray met in April to discuss transportation issues including the Granite Falls Alternate Freight Route.

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