

## **News Advisory – Thursday, May 25, 2006**

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### **Executive Reardon requests federal funding for US-2 safety improvements from Congressman Larsen**

*Initial transportation appropriations work in House of Representatives  
imminent*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today called on Congressman Rick Larsen to help secure federal funding to improve the safety of travel along US-2 in Snohomish County. Executive Reardon and Congressman Larsen met recently to discuss transportation issues including safety on US-2. In a formal letter sent today, Executive Reardon requested Congressman Larsen's assistance in securing federal support for US-2.

“Tackling the hazardous travel conditions on US-2 is a top priority for Snohomish County,” Executive Reardon said. “This request for federal funding finally provides an opportunity for us to start fixing the most dangerous portions of this road.”

This stretch of highway has been of great concern to those traveling US-2 daily for many years. Much of that route consists of sharp curves, narrow shoulders and bridges, and varying speed limits.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (“WSDOT”) is currently directing a Route Development Plan (“RDP”) to identify improvements necessary to make US-2 safer along this deadly stretch of highway. The \$1.3 million study – including \$700,000 that was appropriated by the State Legislature in 2006 – is due in the Spring of 2007.

Since 1999, 41 motorists have been killed on US-2, including 12 in head-on collisions. Moreover, 29 of those 41 fatalities have occurred between Snohomish and Skykomish, the stretch of road that WSDOT is studying as part of the RDP. In that brief time span, WSDOT has recorded more than 2,500 collisions and 1,000 injury accidents.

“Successfully dedicating federal funding now will allow the most urgent safety improvements to begin immediately,” Executive Reardon said.

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