



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office

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County Executive signs land deal with City of Monroe; cites economic development and urban revitalization

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Reardon says County willing partner in helping cities renovate downtowns

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today signed a multi-million dollar land deal that brings Monroe city leaders' dream of a new downtown center one step closer to reality.

And a second Snohomish County city may benefit from the Monroe real estate transaction, too.

Proceeds from the \$16.1 million Monroe sale will finance the consolidation of two County maintenance shops, including one now located on property within the City of Snohomish. Snohomish Mayor Liz Loomis has long expressed interest in purchasing the 9.1 acre site off Avenue D as a spur for future economic development and urban revitalization in that city.

"This deal is a win, win, win," Executive Reardon said.

"It brings economic development and will create jobs. It helps Monroe and Snohomish revitalize their downtowns. And the County will operate more efficiently by consolidating two dilapidated old shops into a single modern maintenance facility. That is three wins."

Monroe Mayor Donnetta Walser was on hand for the signing, which brings a 23-acre site off Highway 2 under city control. For decades the land was a County gravel pit, mined

by a private contractor. The site was rehabilitated in 1998 after the gravel pit was played out.

“This is about fulfilling a vision for the City of Monroe,” Mayor Walser said. “After the gravel pit was rehabilitated, we wanted to ensure both a revenue stream and economic opportunity for the City. We want to have family-wage jobs and a good retail tax base. This is extremely important to the City of Monroe.

“People are going to be able to find their goods and services at home.”

Executive Reardon agreed.

“I said in my State of the County Address that partnering with cities for downtown revitalization was a top administration priority,” he said. “For years Snohomish County government and our cities have been at odds over the smallest things. This is proof that our relationships are changing – and for the better.

“Our interests are mutual, not mutually exclusive.”

Snohomish Mayor Liz Loomis hailed the Monroe land deal – and the potential for a deal in her community - as the sort of partnership that benefits both cities and the County.

“I have made revitalizing Snohomish’s commercial corridor a top priority and Executive Reardon has made economic development his top priority,” Loomis said. “All of our citizens benefit when governments work together at this level.”

Mayor Loomis cited the recent land deal between the Snohomish School District and Snohomish County as another example of governments working together for citizens’ mutual benefit. The County recently agreed to sell the Snohomish schools 63 acres at the old Cathcart Landfill on which to build an elementary school and a high school.

Officials estimate that construction on a new County maintenance facility in Cathcart could be completed as early as 2007. It would free up not only the City of Snohomish site but also a five-acre piece of property near Paine Field in southwest Snohomish County. Consolidating County maintenance capabilities into a modernized facility would bring new money-saving efficiencies to an operation that maintains 1,660 miles of roads, more than 190 bridges and nearly 400 vehicles and other pieces of equipment.

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