

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, May 21, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **County opens first Granite Falls roundabout to traffic**

The first of three roundabouts along the Granite Falls Alternate Route has opened to traffic.

This first roundabout is located at State Route 92 at the westerly end of the truck route project and serves as a gateway to the city of Granite Falls. Two more roundabouts are under construction at the Burn Road intersection and at the Jordan/Engebretsen intersection.

“We’re moving closer to the completion of a project that will benefit all parties involved,” said Snohomish County Aaron Reardon. “Local support here has been as important as state and federal support.”

When finished, the 1.9 mile-route will divert truck traffic away from the city of Granite Falls and will serve as a strategic freight corridor for the region, improving freight mobility, reducing congestion and improving public safety.

In 2005, more than 6 million tons of gravel passed through Granite Falls, equaling one truck and trailer every 30 seconds or 2,000 daily truck trips. By diverting the traffic away from Granite Falls’ downtown core, the city will be able to redevelop its main street to increase tourism through better access to the Cascade Mountains, National Forest lands, trailheads and nearby scenic rivers.

Road construction began in early 2009 and should be finished in 2011.

The project, which is expected to cost less than \$29 million, is being funded through a combination of local, state and federal money. Other project partners include the state's Freight

In this issue:

County opens first Granite Falls roundabout to traffic

Land-use group's suggestions available for review

Families can apply in June for Early Head Start

Follow me on [Twitter](#)

or follow me on [Facebook](#)

And please be sure to [visit me on the Web!](#)

How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the

Mobility Board, Transportation Improvement Board and the city of Granite Falls.

Land-use group's suggestions available for review

Snohomish County's Land Use Working Group (LUWG) recently released a preliminary report for public comment.

The report fulfills the Working Group's mandate to make recommendations that could:

- reduce the total amount of time and expense incurred by applicants, appellants, other parties and the County during the development process. from the initial development of a proposal through final resolution of any legal appeals;
- reduce the number of appeals;
- reduce the number of proposals failing to meet the applicable criteria;
- improve communication and consistency among county agencies involved in the process;
- ensure that public participation processes associated with county permits are serving their intended purposes.

The LUWG was authorized by the Snohomish County Council in a 2009 budget note, and members were jointly appointed by the Snohomish County Executive and Council. Working Group members were selected to serve based on roles within local government and the community as outlined in the budget note.

The group's efforts benefited from the extensive knowledge, expertise and diverse perspectives around the table. Since June 2009, the group has met 14 times and received and considered extensive public input.

The group will consider public comments on the draft report before submitting it to the County Executive and Council on June 30. A copy of the report can be found by clicking [here](#).

Comments can be submitted via the website or by e-mail to Kay Wheeler at kay.wheeler@snoco.org.

Families can apply in June for Early Head Start

Beginning in June, the North Snohomish County Early Head Start program will accept applications to fill 82 openings.

efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

Or, [send me an email](#).

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

The program will provide child development and family support services to eligible families living in Sultan, Granite Falls, Arlington and Marysville.

Snohomish County is one of three Head Start programs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska to be awarded an Early Head Start grant by the national Office of Head Start. The county will receive \$2.45 million in federal stimulus funds during the next two years.

“The inclusion of Early Head Start in our county services provides an opportunity to bring public health, early intervention, housing assistance and a comprehensive early childhood education program to eligible families,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “This furthers our commitment to the children of Snohomish County, who will become tomorrow’s workforce and leaders.”

The following year-round services are offered free to eligible families as part of the Early Head Start program:

- weekly home visits with play-and-learn group socializations;
- developmental screenings and assessments;
- health, nutrition and mental-health referrals;
- family goal-planning;
- parent education and leadership opportunities.

One benefit of the program is that it provides services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women prior to their likely enrollment in the county run Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), which serves about 1,000 preschool students.

Much like ECEAP, the Early Head Start program provides family-centered services for low-income families and is designed to promote the development of the children while helping parents fulfill their roles and move toward self-sufficiency.

For more information on the North Snohomish County Early Head Start or how to apply, contact Program Director Joe Varano at 425-388-7251 or joe.varano@snoco.org.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

