

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, March 7, 2008

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

 **Granite Falls bypass lands \$10 million from state**

*Alternate-route project will start earlier than anticipated*

A newly approved list of state Public Works Trust Fund loans will provide more than \$10 million to Snohomish County in the form of a very low interest loan, allowing construction of the new Granite Falls Alternate Route to begin in early 2009.

Governor Chris Gregoire signed a bill Friday containing the project loan request.

The Granite Falls Alternate Route – a 2-lane, 2.1-mile newly constructed road – will stretch between S.R. 92, west of Jordan Road, and reconnect with Mountain Loop Highway north of Gun Club Road. Most importantly, it will divert heavy truck traffic out of downtown Granite Falls.

The result will be less congestion, better safety and increased economic development for the city of Granite Falls, a partner on the project.

“What this means is better quality of life for the residents of Granite Falls and the surrounding areas,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “We recognize the importance of this project and now have the opportunity to move it forward.”

In 2005, more than 6 million tons of gravel passed through Granite Falls, translating into one truck and trailer every 30 seconds or 2,000 daily truck trips. Truck movement through downtown has significantly impacted residents, businesses

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**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 efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](http://www.snoco.org/SnoStat).

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and schools by compromising pedestrian and motorist safety as well as creating noise and air pollution.

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 will begin in early 2009 and should be completed by the fall of 2010.

The project is expected to cost nearly \$32.6 million. The county has secured more than \$19 million – a mix of federal, state and local funding. The \$10 million loan, at a 0.5 percent interest rate and payable during a 20-year period, leaves only the need to secure an additional \$3.5 million.

The \$10 million state loan will allow the project to be completed in one phase instead of two, meaning the project will be finished earlier than initially expected.

“Completion of the project as early as possible is a must. Not only will it allow the trucking industry better service, but it means the city can move forward with its economic improvements sooner,” Reardon said. “None of this could have been done without federal and state support.”

Federal funding worth more than \$4.4 million was acquired with the help of the Washington Congressional delegation including Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell as well as Rep. Rick Larsen. Snohomish County has petitioned federal legislators for the additional \$3.5 million, but based on difficult federal budget conditions, county officials say they recognize local funding may be needed to finish the project.

This is the first time the county has qualified for a loan under this state program for a road project since 1998. State officials said safety needs helped support approval of the project.

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**Contact me:**

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

Phone: 425.388.3460  
Fax: 425.388.3434

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

## **Salary commission to begin meeting**

The Snohomish County Citizens Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials will hold its first meeting on March 17 to review the salary schedule for elected officials for 2009 and 2010.

The commission is an independent group that meets every two years to set the salaries of elected officials in Snohomish County. Elected officials whose salaries are determined by the commission are the members of the county council, the executive, assessor, auditor, clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff and treasurer.

By law, salary recommendations must be made by May 1 for the next two-year period. A 2006 amendment to the county charter eliminated the need for council and executive approval of the salary changes.

The commission is made up of ten members, nominated by the county executive and confirmed by the county council.

All meetings of the salary commission begin at 6 p.m. and will be held in the 6th Floor Executive Board Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett. Scheduled meeting dates are March 17, 24, 31 and April 7.

The members of the current salary commission are Marty Lumia, Patricia McKeon, Donn Thompson, Thomas Brennan, Steve Neighbors, James Shipman, Sharon DeHaan and Don Shove. Two positions are yet to be filled.

Snohomish County Salary Commission: [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), search term “salary commission.”

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## **Change batteries when changing clocks**

Changing the batteries in smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors as you change clocks this weekend for Daylight Savings Time could save a life.

The Snohomish County Fire Marshal’s Office says routinely changing batteries twice a year to coincide with

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Daylight Savings Time is a great way to create a public-safety habit and prevent unnecessary fire-related deaths. Eighty-three percent of all civilian fire-related deaths nationwide are a result of home fires, and on average, nearly three children a day die in these fires.

An early warning can provide critical extra seconds to escape. Smoke alarms double your family's chance of getting out of a home fire alive — but only if they work.

“Changing the batteries only takes minutes, but it could be the one thing that prevents a fire-related death,” said Tom Maloney, the county's fire marshal.

Snohomish County routinely teams up with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to promote the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® campaign. The program urges all Americans to change smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries when changing clocks twice each year.

Snohomish County residents also should test their smoke alarms to ensure they work and develop an escape plan in case of emergency.

As you “spring forward” this weekend, be sure to promote a simple, lifesaving habit. Daylight Savings Time begins this year at 2 a.m. March 8.

“A working smoke detector is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire,” Maloney said.

For more information about fire safety, call the Office of the Snohomish County Fire Marshal at 425-388-3557 or visit the county Web site [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), keyword “fire marshal.”

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## **Reardon denounces neighborhood fires**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon denounced Monday the actions of those involved in a string of fires, which investigators are considering domestic terrorism.

Offering full support to law enforcement, Reardon said Monday that opposition to building projects should be *(Continued)*

settled within the public arena and not by anyone taking the law into their own hands.

“There is no excuse for any kind of terrorism, no matter the motivation or political agenda behind it,” Reardon said. “This is an outrage and should not be tolerated by the citizens of Snohomish County.”

Reardon is pressing law enforcement to investigate the arsons thoroughly and with vigor. Should an arrest be made, Reardon said he hoped those responsible would be prosecuted fully.

Snohomish County law enforcement is working cooperatively with federal officials, and Reardon applauded the quick response time of local fire departments, the Snohomish County Fire Marshal and police to the scene.

“Any time you have a fire, there’s danger involved,” Reardon said. “We’re glad no one was injured this morning.”

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