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Snohomish County Public Works wins Project of the Year award from Right of Way Industry Association

Right-of-Way group honored for work on Seattle Hill Rd project

EVERETT, Wash., February 15, 2018 – The importance of the Seattle Hill Rd improvement project near Mill Creek is evident by the population growth in the area. However, that growth and the resulting density along the 1.6 mile stretch also makes the \$11.9 million project very complex. Recognizing this, the Snohomish County Public Works Right-of-Way group garnered the 2017 Project of the Year award from the Puget Sound Chapter of the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

“This project involved 49 parcel acquisitions and seven additional temporary construction easements,” Snohomish County Public Works Director Steve Thomsen said. “It was in two separate jurisdictions with different land uses and it took 23 months to complete negotiations. This was a huge effort to get to the construction phase and the Right-of-Way group helped make it happen.”

The Seattle Hill Rd project Right-of-Way group includes Supervisor Michael McVey, Senior Coordinator M. Jane Anderson, Specialist Jean Greagor and Review Appraiser Steven Juntilla, along with consultants Tom Stowe and Jerry Sidwell of Stowe Appraisal, Inc. The group was able to complete the right-of-way process for \$2.3 million.

“We did run into some issues with contacting property owners, but our team was extremely diligent and professional,” McVey said. “We even had a major utility relocation. The project covered commercial and residential property, along with residential developments. It was pretty complex.”

The Right-of-Way group was tasked with acquiring the land in order to widen the road to three lanes, along with adding bike lanes, curbs and sidewalks. It performed appraisal reviews, negotiated the purchases, and in some cases helped relocate personal property within the acquisition area.

The [Seattle Hill Rd project](#) will change the profile of the road in order to improve sight distance and safety. The design team had to deal with wetlands and creek issues, and coordinate with four major on-going residential developments.

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department constructs and maintains county roads; controls and manages surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversees the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department's main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

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