County retains seat on state transportation board

Snohomish County will retain its membership on the state’s Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) as the county’s Planning & Development Services Director Clay White replaces outgoing member Steve Thomsen, the county’s public works director.

The TIB is an independent state agency that distributes and manages street construction and maintenance grants to 320 cities and counties throughout the state. Funding for the program comes from revenue generated by three cents of the state wide gas tax.

“Snohomish County representation on this instrumental board helps assure that this region – counties and cities – will get the additional funding they need for transportation projects,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Since 1990, Snohomish County’s road program has received nearly $102 million for 54 projects. Funding to Snohomish County cities and the county combined total $263 million for 212 projects.

Most board members are appointed by the Secretary of Transportation to four-year staggered terms and county representation is never guaranteed. Thomsen, who served two four-year terms, represented counties west of the Cascade Mountains, including Snohomish County, to assure there was fair and equitable allocation of funding to counties and cities.

“Steve Thomsen’s engineering experience helped him play a key role in the state board’s ability to prioritize and implement its projects,” Reardon said. “Clay White’s experience working on statewide planning issues also makes him a perfect fit for membership.

The board is composed of six city members, six county members, two Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) officials, two transit representatives, a private sector representative, a member representing the ports, a governor appointee, a member representing non-motorized transportation, and a member representing special-needs transportation.
Burn ban still in effect for Snohomish County

With continued hot weather, Snohomish County is urging residents to take extra precautions to stay hydrated, cool and to be careful when lighting recreational fires.

Due to continued high fire dangers and prolonged hot and dry weather conditions, the Snohomish County Fire Marshal is reminding residents that outdoor burning except for recreational fires has been banned.

Residents also are asked to take extra precautions with recreational fires through the weekend.

“If you don’t need a recreational fire this weekend, don’t have one,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “Conditions are dry enough that the smallest spark could turn into something uncontrollable and extremely dangerous.”

Recreational fires are less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high and are for cooking and pleasure only. Recreational fires must be contained within a fire pit that has been cleared of all combustible material within a 10 foot radius. They must be monitored at all times and must have a water source readily available (at a minimum, a charged water hose or a five-gallon bucket of water).

The current burn ban began Aug. 6 and will remain in effect until further notice. Residents within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town should check with local fire departments for current burning ban information.

All outdoor burn permits, including permits issued by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for agricultural burning, are suspended until this ban is lifted. This ban will remain in effect until there is a sustained period of rainfall and the fire risk returns to low.

Contact the Outdoor Burning Information Hotline at 425-388-3508 for updated information.

Grant allows county to make conservation upgrades

Snohomish County has received a $462,000 grant from the state Department of Commerce to complete conservation upgrades at county facilities.

The county will complete $1.8 million of utility upgrades at its Corrections Department that are primarily water related and will save the county about $90,000 annually.

“We must be fiscally and environmentally responsible,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “These conservation upgrades will allow us to do both.”

Snohomish County’s grant was one of $11 million in grants that the state made to local governments and higher education institutions across Washington.

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon
The 2012 Energy Efficiency Grants for Higher Education and Local Governments are awarded through a competitive process, and must be used solely for energy and operational cost savings improvements. Projects for the first round of funding were selected from 36 grant applications requesting a total of more than $14 million.

**Road repairs close Woods Creek Rd., Pioneer Hwy.**

In addition to state construction work on Highway 9, residents should also be aware of Snohomish County repairs being made at Woods Creek Road in Monroe and Pioneer Highway near Stanwood.

The county is replacing a deteriorating culvert on Woods Creek Road just west of Ingraham Road in the Monroe area, requiring the full closure of the road until Sept. 4. Detour signs have been posted along Ingraham Road, Brown Road and Chain Lake Road.

Pioneer Highway will be closed to all traffic east of 36th Avenue Northwest and west of 28th Avenue Northwest as contractors for Snohomish County repair winter flood damage that occurred in 2010.

The closure will begin Monday, Aug. 20, and run through Friday, Aug. 31. A detour will be posted along Pioneer Highway, 36th Avenue Northwest (Olsen Road), Norman Road, and 28th Avenue Northwest (Stubb Road). A height restriction of 9.5 feet along the detour route is in effect due to a railroad undercrossing.

For more information about this and other road projects affecting travel on county roads, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), and search “Weekly Roads Update,” or call 425-388-3789.

**Mark your calendar for “Music on the Plaza”**

Snohomish County Campus  
Wednesdays  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
- Aug. 22: Jenny Vick, Jazzy Pop-Rock  
- Aug. 29: Jètte and the Resonators, Classic Rock

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.
Notice: All emails and attachments sent to and from Snohomish County are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).