Reardon signs RTID’s Blueprint for Progress

On Wednesday, July 11, County Executive Aaron Reardon signed the Regional Transportation Investment District’s (RTID) Blueprint for Progress at a ceremony on the site of the Paradise Lake Road Interchange Project which is included in the project list. The Blueprint for Progress recommends improvements for major roads and bridges in the most congested corridors in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

Executive Reardon was joined by members of the County Council, local government officials, community activists and staff who have worked for nearly five years on the creation of the project list. The Blueprint for Progress will be combined with Sound Transit Phase 2 to create a “Roads & Transit” plan to appear on the November 2007 ballot in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

“The Roads & Transit plan will give voters a choice on a corridor-based roads package that will improve transportation mobility for both people and freight,” said Reardon. “The signing of RTID’s Blueprint for Progress ordinance culminates years of planning to create a transportation system connecting major population centers in Snohomish County.”

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If approved by voters in November, the Blueprint for Progress road investments would focus on major County corridors, including improvements to I-5, US 2 and the Trestle, SR 99, SR 522, SR 524 and SR 531. Combined with Sound Transit Phase 2, the proposed transit investments include light rail service northward from the University of Washington to 164th Street/Ash Way via Northgate, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood.

For more information on the Roads & Transit plan, please visit: www.roadsandtransit.org

County helps preserve affordable housing

A loan agreement between the County, the YWCA of Seattle-King County-Snohomish County and the Everett Housing Authority moved one step closer this week to preserving over 200 affordable housing units in Snohomish County.

County Executive Aaron Reardon submitted the contingent loan agreement for Council approval in June. On Wednesday, the County Council approved the proposal and the contract will be forwarded to the Executive for final approval.

The agreement provides for the purchase and rehabilitation of three multi-families housing complexes in Everett, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace and includes a total of 220 units to serve families at or below 50% of area median income.

“Housing affordability is an issue for families all across Snohomish County as home prices and rents continue to climb,” said Executive Reardon. “This agreement is an example of how we can use innovative solutions and public-private partnerships to meet the affordability challenge head-on.”

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The project includes acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of the 90-unit Wear to Live apartment complex in Everett; the 66-unit Victorian Woods apartment complex in Mountlake Terrace and the Somerset Village, a 64-unit complex in Lynnwood.

The acquisition cost of the three properties is $28.8 million. The County provided no funding to the purchase, but instead provided bond credit to the YWCA and the Housing Authority to lower the cost of the purchase. The County’s assistance saved approximately $2.4 million on the total cost of the project.

--- Third annual Music on the Plaza ---

The 3rd annual Music on the Plaza Concert series kicks off on Wednesday, July 18th at the main campus of Snohomish County, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue in downtown Everett.

The concerts feature local artists and are presented by the Office of the County Executive and the Snohomish County Arts Commission. The Music on the Plaza concerts are free and open to the public.

Reardon said, “The concerts play an important role in enhancing the arts in our community and promote a creative vitality that makes Snohomish County attractive to our citizens, businesses and visitors.”

Hejira, a blend of Middle Eastern world fusion, will perform at the first concert scheduled for July 18th (beginning at 11:30 a.m.). Other concerts will feature the Latin jazz sounds of Sonando and the Chicago Texas style Blues of David Hudson.

The lunchtime concerts will run through August 22nd at the campus amphitheater located at Rockefeller and Wall.

Music on the Plaza flyer

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Movie nights in Willis Tucker Community Park

Mix the excitement of a big screen movie with the beauty of the great outdoors at Willis Tucker Community Park, courtesy of Sundquist Homes. Thursday, July 19 will mark the first in a series of outdoor movies with a showing of The Sand Lot.

Open seating begins at 7:30, movie start times will vary depending on daylight. Seating is on grass ~ bring low-back lawn chairs and blankets for comfort. Admission is free and popcorn and soda will be available for purchase. For more information visit the Snohomish County Parks Department website. Go to www.snoco.org and search for “parks.”

Bring your blankets and spend a night under the stars with your family!

Movie line-up:
July 19, 9:40pm - The Sand Lot, PG
July 26, 9:30pm - Napoleon Dynamite, PG
August 2, 9:20pm - Happy Feet, G
August 9, 9:07pm - Dreamer, PG
August 16, 8:54pm - The Princess Bride, PG
August 23, 8:45pm - Charlotte’s Web, G

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.