



# Snohomish County Council News

NEWS from  
Councilmember John Koster

October 4, 2013

## QUICK LINKS

[Snohomish County  
Homepage](#)

[County Council Homepage](#)

[John Koster's Homepage](#)

[Link to Council Webcasts](#)

---

[Assessor Services](#)

[Election Information](#)

[Jail Register](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Outstanding Warrants](#)

[Public Records](#)

[Marriage Licenses](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Recorded Documents](#)

[Registered Sex Offenders](#)

[Solid Waste Services](#)

[Zoning Maps](#)

---

[Keep Informed On Neighborhood  
Development Projects](#)

[Building Permit and Land Use  
Activity Reports](#)

[Construction Traffic Alerts](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Who represents you?](#)

## John Koster's eNewsletter

Snohomish County Council  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609  
Everett, Washington 98201

8th floor, Robert J. Drewel Building  
Phone: 425-388-3494  
E-Mail: [John.Koster@snoco.org](mailto:John.Koster@snoco.org)



[Barbara Chapman](#), Legislative Aide

## Transportation Reforms

The Snohomish County Government has been actively working with the state legislators and with our lobbyist for the past year to obtain funds and to implement changes to our roads and transportation system. On September 18th the Council members attended a Transportation meeting held at the County Administration building to personally address these issues with the Senate Transportation Committee and Directors from the Washington State Department of Transportation. Executive Lovick, Councilmembers Koster and Gossett and our Public Works Director, Steve Thomsen spoke directly to this group regarding the needs of this county. Citizens were also given the opportunity to speak if they had signed up prior to the meeting. Councilman John Koster addressed the reforms needed (as outlined in his speech here):

\* Good evening, I am Snohomish County Councilmember John Koster. I represent the north east portion of Snohomish County.

\* The County recognizes that the proposed reforms will be a big part of the transportation conversation. The County Council as a whole has discussed the ten reforms that were released, and although our council has a variety of views on them, we were able to agree on some of the reforms. We hope that as the Legislature discusses the reforms you work together toward an agreement with a

willingness to compromise.

\* I believe we can all agree that one of our priorities as elected people is the stewardship of the taxpayer's dollars. I believe the most difficult task before you is NOT to explain the need for revenue for preservation and maintenance, or even to ascertain which new transportation projects are most important to the economy of the State. The biggest challenge before you is to gain the confidence and assurance of the taxpayers that their hard earned dollars which you currently collect and spend are spent wisely and efficiently...before you ask for more. Meaningful reforms will help to build public support.

\* To that end and specifically on the reforms, we want to express support for streamlining environmental permitting, specifically the language included in ESHB 1978, sponsored by Rep. Hans Zeiger. Right now, this applies to Ecology, but it might be worth looking at how the legislation would apply to other departments, such as the department of fish and wildlife.

\* We would also like to express support for the 2013 omnibus transportation reform bill, including supporting performance measures and reporting on programs funded with state and federal transportation funds.

\* We would like to express our support for expanding the use of public private partnerships.

\* The proposal to redirect sales tax on transportation construction projects from the operating budget to the transportation budget is difficult. I suppose one way to view this is that such a change would be retaining transportation dollars for transportation projects. However, the County receives funding from the state general fund to deliver some vital services. If this reform puts strain on the operating budget and the state is not able to continue to provide state-shared revenues and other services, then the County may need to divert funding away from the county road fund to continue to provide those services. This would limit the amount of local transportation funding available for the county. So, in considering this reform, you must consider the impact on the general fund and the implication to state shared revenues for counties around the State.

\* In regard to the issue of the prevailing wage, I understand the political complexities of the issue, and do not believe in the immediate future that transportation projects will be exempted from the prevailing wage (as has been suggested). However I would urge you to examine the methodology by which the true prevailing wage might be determined. Some years ago I ran a bill...that was passed by the House, and supported by labor...that would have changed that methodology and more accurately determined the true Prevailing wage (HB 2102 1997)

\* Thank you for taking the time to visit Snohomish County and to listen to the citizens. We hope this provides feedback on some of the reforms.

## Upcoming Events

Please join us at 7:00 am for the upcoming Business Roundtable on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at Shawn O'Donnell's Banquet Room 122 - 128<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Everett (128<sup>th</sup> Street Exit off I-5 on the east side of the freeway).

Guest Speakers will be State Legislators along with Councilman Koster who will introduce the new Councilperson representing Council District 1. The discussion topic will be County issues and will provide an opportunity for you to find where the new councilperson stands on the issues. There will also be time for Q & A.

For more information and to register, Contact Cindy at [kosterbrt@comcast.net](mailto:kosterbrt@comcast.net) or call 425-308-7737

I hope you found this eNEWSLETTER to be informative and useful. You can make it even more valuable by suggesting topics and issues for future newsletters. Please contact me at 425-388-3494, or e-mail [John.Koster@snoco.org](mailto:John.Koster@snoco.org). If you would like to share this newsletter, select the **Forward email** link below.

**Sincerely,**

John Koster  
Snohomish County Council