

PRESS RELEASE



County Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council funding puts Hwy 2 safety improvements over the top

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Governor Christine Gregoire came to Snohomish County Monday to announce the designation of Highway 2 as a state "safety corridor," bringing with her \$2.1 million in state and federal traffic safety improvement funds that when combined with \$1.5 million provided by the County Council will allow for significant safety enhancements from Monroe to Stevens Pass.

"This is just a first step but an important one in fixing this very dangerous stretch of highway," said Council Councilman Dave Somers of Monroe. "Forty miles of major centerline rumble strips, coupled with fog-line rumble strips from Monroe to Gold Bar, and much more effective road striping and signs will save lives," said Somers.

"I have to give the governor credit," said Somers. "This was her third trip to the county in a month, meeting with the dedicated members of the US2 Safety Coalition and seeing our problems and challenges first hand."

Somers said the \$1.5 million in county matching funds would come from the county council's Enhanced Community Infrastructure Development Initiative, and he thanked his fellow council members for their support of his request. "We all know how dangerous this road can be," he said.

While the installation of the rumble strips will not begin until the spring, State Patrol Chief John Batiste said his agency would immediately step up enforcement efforts on Highway 2, including reassigning in the patrol's motorcycle officers.

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