



Snohomish County

Conservation and Natural Resources

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September 20, 2023

Dave Somers
County Executive

Mr. Tom Teigen
Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director
6705 Puget Park Dr.
Snohomish, WA 98296

Re: Centennial Trail South Project (Woodinville to Snohomish) – FY23 RCN Application

Dear Mr. Teigen:

We are pleased to write this letter supporting your application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program for the Centennial Trail South project to extend the Centennial Trail between the Cities of Snohomish and Woodinville. This project is a high priority for residents of Snohomish County and is of regional significance. We see this project as a critical link between the two most significant trail systems in Snohomish and King Counties, connecting hundreds of miles of trails and dozens of communities throughout the region.

Centennial Trail South is a crucial, 12-mile missing link between the current Centennial Trail, a vital 30-mile shared-use trail in Snohomish County, and the Eastrail, a 30-mile active transportation and light rail corridor connecting the communities of east Lake Washington to Snohomish County. Centennial Trail South will be a transformative multi-purpose corridor providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting rural and urban communities throughout the region, as well as supporting crucial utility infrastructure serving adjacent communities. A comprehensive and connected network will support recreation, link transportation, contribute to healthy lifestyles and local economies, conserve wildlife corridors, and provide environmentally friendly movement of people.

Centennial Trail South is a rare project capable of addressing many crucial issues with one solution and will have broad benefits for all residents of Snohomish County and the Puget Sound region. This project will improve public health connecting community to daily destinations and recreation, increasing time outside, and providing opportunity for people of all ages to incorporate exercise into their daily routine. Centennial Trail South will provide direct access for communities along the trail to the economies of major regional growth, as well as contributing directly to the \$8.2 billion per year generated by trail-based activities in Washington State. In addition to creating a safe and accessible alternative to congested roadways and linking transit destinations, reducing vehicle trips leads directly to a reduction in green house gas emissions. As a linear greenspace, Centennial Trail South preserves open space for recreation and conservation, links fragmented habitats along the corridor, and will preserve critical habitat such as wetlands along the corridor.

This grant will help the County leverage millions of local, regional, state, and federal dollars that have already been invested into the Centennial Trail South and Eastrail corridor.

As strong proponents of the development of this trail, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for Snohomish County's request for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods planning grant for the Centennial Trail South Project. We wish you good luck in your pursuit of these funds!

Sincerely,

Dave Somers
County Executive

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