

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE  
AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Snohomish County Council will hold a public hearing to consider Proposed Ordinance 22-032 on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. at 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, 8th Floor, Jackson Board Room, Everett, WA, in conjunction with a remote meeting platform via the following Zoom link:

**Zoom Webinar link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94846850772>

Dial in: (253) 215 8782 or (301) 715 8592

Meeting ID: 948 4685 0772

**Note:** Please check the Council webpage 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing time for the most up-to-date information <https://snohomish.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, or contact the Council Clerk at 425-388-3494 or at [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org).

**Background:** This ordinance proposes to re-establish Chapter 4.117 of Snohomish County Code relating to the Snohomish County Public Works Assistance Fund. The original chapter was repealed on the date six years following its enactment, as required by County Charter 2.115. Since its inception, the Public Works Assistance Fund has successfully assisted five cities within Snohomish County to fund six important projects. Public Works has an estimated \$1M in funds available for the upcoming call for projects, benefiting local jurisdictions and the county as a whole. A summary is as follows:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 22-032

RELATING TO THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANCE FUND, PROVIDING FOR LOANS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO TITLE 4 SCC

WHEREAS, chapter 36.135 RCW authorizes county legislative authorities to establish local public works assistance funds for the purpose of funding public works projects located wholly or partially within the county; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.135.020 authorizes counties to deposit moneys from existing county revenue sources into local public works assistance funds, which deposits and any interest earned thereon can only be used to make loans to the county and to other local governments for public works projects, and for administration of the fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.135.020 and 36.135.030, such loans must be made in consultation with cities and towns and are subject to certain minimum amounts that must be made available for projects in cities or towns and to certain maximum amounts that can be used for loans to the County or for administration of the fund; and

WHEREAS, chapter 4.05 SCC provides for the creation of county funds by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Public Works Assistance Fund created by this ordinance will provide a structure for conducting and accounting for future county funding and loan activities as contemplated by chapter 36.135 RCW, if any;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. A new chapter is added to Title 4 of the Snohomish County Code to read:

**Chapter 4.117**  
**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANCE FUND**

Sections:

- 4.117.010 Creation and purpose.
- 4.117.020 Definitions.
- 4.117.030 Source of resources.
- 4.117.040 Use of resources.
- 4.117.050 Loan eligibility and terms.
- 4.117.060 Loan applications and prioritization.
- 4.117.070 Administration of fund.
- 4.117.080 Sunset, staff report

**4.117.010 Creation and purpose.**

There is hereby created the Snohomish county public works assistance fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide for loans to the county and other local governments to assist in funding public works projects located wholly or partially within the county as authorized by chapter 36.135 RCW and this chapter.

**4.117.020 Definitions.**

In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise,

(1) "Local government" means a city, town, county, special purpose district, and any other municipal corporation or quasi-municipal corporation in the state, excluding school districts and port districts;

(2) "Public works project" means a project of a local government for the planning, acquisition, construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets and roads, bridges, water systems, or storm and sanitary sewage systems and solid waste facilities, including recycling facilities.

**4.117.030 Source of resources.**

(1) The resources of the Snohomish county public works assistance fund shall consist of:

(a) Such revenue from existing revenue sources of the county within the meaning of RCW 36.135.020 as may be approved by the county council in its sole discretion; and

(b) Money received from the county and other local governments in repayment of loans from the fund.

(2) All deposits to the fund, except repayments of loans from the fund, must be approved by the county council.

**4.117.040 Use of resources.**

(1) Moneys in the Snohomish county public works assistance fund, and interest earned on balances from the fund, may only be used:

(a) To make loans to the county and to other local governments to fund public works projects located wholly or partially within the county as provided in chapter 36.135 and this chapter; and

(b) For costs incurred in the administration of the fund.

(2) No more than fifty percent of the moneys loaned from the fund in a calendar year may be loaned to the county. At least twenty-five percent of the moneys anticipated to be loaned from the fund in a calendar year must be made available for funding public works projects in cities or towns.

(3) No more than one percent of the average annual balance of the fund, including interest earned on balances from the fund, may be used annually for administrative costs.

(4) All loans of fund resources must be approved by the county council. Such approval will be considered by the council in accordance with procedures adopted under SCC 4.117.060.

**4.117.050 Loan eligibility and terms.**

(1) To be eligible for a loan from the Snohomish county public works assistance fund, a local government must, in addition to meeting other county requirements, demonstrate to the county:

- (a) Utilization of all local revenue sources that are reasonably available for funding public works projects;
- (b) Compliance with applicable requirements of chapter 36.70A RCW; and
- (c) Consistency between the proposed project and applicable capital facilities plans required under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(2) Loans from the fund will be made upon such terms and conditions and charge rates of interest as the county council deems necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Loans must not exceed the money in the fund plus money to be received from the payment of debt service on loans made from the fund.

**4.117.060 Loan applications and prioritization.**

(1) Within 120 days after the county council determines by motion that the resources of the Snohomish county public works assistance fund are sufficient to support the grant of one or more loans to local governments, the departments of finance and public works shall jointly prepare and present to the council for its adoption by motion:

- (a) A proposed prioritization process for funding public works projects that gives priority to projects necessary to address public health needs, substantial environmental degradation, or increase existing capacity necessary to accommodate projected population and employment growth; and
- (b) A proposed competitive application process for funding public works projects that requires consideration of the following factors in assigning a priority to and funding a project:
  - (i) Whether the local government applying for assistance has experienced severe fiscal distress resulting from natural disaster or emergency public works needs;
  - (ii) Whether the project is critical in nature and would affect the health and safety of a great number of citizens;
  - (iii) The cost of the project compared to the size of the local government and amount of loan money available;
  - (iv) The number of communities served by or funding the project;
  - (v) Whether the project is the acquisition, expansion, improvement, or renovation by a local government of a public water system that is in violation of health and safety standards;
  - (vi) The number of additional housing units estimated to be achieved by funding the project;
  - (vii) The number of additional jobs estimated to be achieved by funding the project; and
  - (viii) Other criteria the council may deem appropriate.
- (c) A proposed schedule of terms, conditions, and interest rates that are necessary or convenient, considering the financial and other interests of the county, to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The prioritization process required by subsection (1)(a) of this section must be:

- (a) Completed collaboratively with public works directors of local governments within the county through the Snohomish county tomorrow process initiated by council Motion No. 89-159, provided that final decisions shall be made by the council;
- (b) Documented in the form of written findings produced by the county; and
- (c) Revised periodically according to a schedule developed by the county and the public works directors.

(3) The council will adopt the procedures and schedule of terms, conditions, and interest rates, with or without revisions, or return the proposals to the departments for modification. Once adopted by the council the procedures shall be implemented by the departments of finance and public works and other county departments as provided therein.

**4.117.070 Administration of fund.**

The director of the department of finance or the director's designee shall administer the Snohomish county public works assistance fund within the financial management system

provided for in chapter 2.100 SCC, and shall serve as the fund manager. Administration of the fund shall be coordinated with like county loan programs, if any, in order to maximize efficiencies and avoid duplication. The fund manager shall have the duties set out in SCC 4.05.050.

**4.117.080 Sunset, staff report.**

(1) Chapter 4.117 SCC, adopted by this ordinance or as amended after the effective date of this ordinance, is repealed, effective on the date six years following enactment unless re-enacted prior to that date as provided in section 2.115 of the county charter.

(2) On or before the date five years following enactment the director of the department of finance or the director's designee shall file with the council a written report on the status and operation of the Snohomish county public works assistance fund, which report shall include, in addition to other matters identified by the director, a statement of the terms and conditions of all outstanding loans to local governments and a recommendation for legislative action to be taken prior to repeal under subsection (1) of this section, if any.

Section 2. All acts taken by the Public Works Department and/or the Finance Department prior to enactment of this ordinance that are consistent with and in furtherance of the purpose or intent of this ordinance and the prior chapter 4.117 SCC are hereby ratified and confirmed..

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**State Environmental Policy Act:** Pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197.11.800(19), this proposal is categorically exempt from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

**Where to Get Copies of the Proposed Ordinance:** Copies of the full ordinance and related documentation are available upon request by calling the Snohomish County Council Office at (425) 388-3494, 1-800-562-4367 x3494, TDD 1-800-877-8339, or by e-mailing [Contact.Council@snoco.org](mailto:Contact.Council@snoco.org).

**Website Access:** The ordinance and related documents can be accessed through the Council's website at <https://snohomish.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx> (File 2022-0762) or <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/Council-Hearings-Calendar> - Hearings Calendar.

**Range of Possible Actions the County Council May Take on This Proposal:** At the conclusion of its public hearing(s), the County Council may make one of the following decisions regarding the proposed actions: (1) adopt the proposed ordinance; (2) adopt an amended version of the proposed ordinance; (3) decline to adopt the proposed ordinance; (4) adopt such other proposals or modification of such proposals as were considered by the County Council at its own hearing; or (5) take any other action permitted by law.

**Website Access:** The ordinance and related documents can be accessed through the Council's website at <https://snohomish.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx> (File 2022-0752) or <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/Council-Hearings-Calendar> - Hearings Calendar.

**Public Testimony:** All interested persons may testify concerning the above-described matter at the time and place indicated above or by remote participation in the meeting. Written testimony is encouraged and may be sent to Snohomish County Council, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 609, Everett, WA 98201, faxed to 425 388-3496, or e-mailed to [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org). Submitting testimony 24 hours prior to the hearing will ensure copies are provided to Council and appropriate staff in advance of the hearing. (Note: All public testimony are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to RCW Chapter 42.56. Any contact information provided will be available to the public on the Council's website.)


**Party of Record:** You may become a party of record on this matter by sending a written request to the Clerk of the County Council at the above address, testifying at the public hearing, or entering your name and address on a register provided for that purpose at the public hearing.

**American Disabilities Act Notice:** Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling Elena Lao at 425-388-3494, 1-800-562-4367 x3494, TDD 1-800-877-8339, or e-mail [elena.lao@snoco.org](mailto:elena.lao@snoco.org).

QUESTIONS: For additional information or specific questions on the proposed ordinance, please call Ken Klein in the Executive Department at 425-388-3298.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

  
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Council Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Clerk of the Council

PUBLISH: August 24, 2022

Send Affidavit to: Council  
Send Invoice to: Public Works 107024