



Snohomish County

County Council

Jared Mead, Chair
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March 12, 2024

County Executive

Dave Somers

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO BOX 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We write today to ask that you maintain an important proviso in the adopted 2023-2025 Supplemental Transportation Budget. The proviso will put an end to a disagreement between WSDOT and Snohomish County over the ownership of four frontage roads that the County has been maintaining for decades. While inconsequential to the state, it is important to the future of housing development in the area.

As background, for over forty years, Snohomish County has maintained and assumed ownership of access roads that were constructed by the State of Washington in the late 1960's when the State constructed SR 532 and SR 522. These streets were built to provide access to privately owned parcels that otherwise would have been landlocked by the construction of the state routes. Until recently, the County had been operating with the understanding that they were properly deeded the right of way from WSDOT, but both entities are unable to locate any records of the official transfer.

Of high importance, is access at 267th Street NW and 19th Ave NW, where a housing development on private property is planned adjacent to the frontage road but is unable to move forward because of the current dispute between the County and WSDOT. Prior to constructing SR 532, the Washington Highway Commission released an Access Report in 1966 which reported the intention to deed the property, and reads as follows:

“Upon certification by the District Engineer in writing that the construction work is completed, the County will assume all responsibilities of maintenance and future reconstruction of the frontage or access roads and the rearranged or connecting County roads. Within one year following completion of construction and notification the State will deed any right of way acquired for the construction work to the County.

A priority for Snohomish County is the state assisting in correcting this almost 50-year oversight by having the following access roads officially transferred to Snohomish County.

Last year, the final 2023-2025 Transportation Budget included a similar proviso; however, it was vetoed and there was no resolution over the interim. To address concerns raised by WSDOT, this year's proviso includes payment per parcel and a traffic safety analysis to ensure that the additional new homes will not adversely impact highway safety.

The proviso can be found in Section 214, Page 59:

(6)(a) \$1,600,000 of the motor vehicle account—state appropriation is provided solely for real estate services activities. The legislature finds that the following sections of public roadway owned by the department are no longer necessary for the state highway system:

(i) That segment of 267th Street NW located south of state route 36 number 532 and west of Interstate 5 in the vicinity of the intersection of state route number 532 and 19th Avenue NW, serving parcel numbers: 32042600202300, 32042600102200,

32042600100600, 32042600100700, 32042600100400, 32042600100800, 32042600102700, 32042600101000, and 32042600102300;

(ii) That segment of Tester Road located adjacent to the south side of state route number 522;

(iii) That segment of Bostian Road including as it turns and becomes 224th Street SE located on the south side of state route number 522 in the vicinity of 87th Ave SE; and

(iv) That segment of W. Bostian Road located on the north side of state route number 522.


(b) Therefore, pursuant to RCW 36.75.090, the department shall certify that these roadways are no longer needed by the state and convey the roadways to the county for continued use as public highways for motor vehicle use. Additionally, in consideration of the value of maintenance services provided by the county on the roadway comprising 267th Street NW during the time of department ownership, the department shall grant temporary access permits, for those properties abutting the conveyed segment of 267th Street NW, to use 19th Avenue NW for access to state route number 532, upon the payment of \$5,000 for each new parcel taking access from 19th Ave to state route number 532 and a traffic impact analysis showing no significant safety impacts to state route number 532. The temporary access permits may be terminated when the conveyed segment of 267th Street 22 NW is extended out to intersect with Sunday Lake Road, or when an alternate access route is established connecting to Sunday Lake Road.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to maintain this proviso and for your service to the state of Washington.

Sincerely,



Jared Mead
Council Chair




Dave Somers
County Executive




Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair



Sam Low
Councilmember



Megan Dunn
Councilmember



Strom Peterson
Councilmember