



For Immediate Release

City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

October 31, 2006

For more information contact:

Peter Hahn, Deputy Administrator Planning/Building/Public Works, 425-430-7242
Preeti Shridhar, Communications Director, 425-430-6569

Puget Sound Regional Council funds Renton's transportation projects

SW 27th St./Strander Boulevard Connection and Sam Chastain Waterfront Trail receive Federal Funding of \$4.6 million and \$900,000 respectively

Renton: The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has selected key transportation projects in Renton to receive funding in 2007. The SW 27th St./Strander Boulevard Connection will receive \$4.6 million of federal funds. The Sam Chastain Waterfront Trail on Lake Washington's south shore will receive \$900,000. These projects play a critical role in implementing Destination 2030, the region's long-range transportation plan, through support for centers and the corridors that connect them. PSRC's Executive Board made the final decision on the projects after a thorough examination by the Transportation Policy Board, a month-long public comment and review period and air quality modeling that demonstrated that the region would continue to meet its clean air goals.

The SW 27th St./Strander Boulevard project will extend Strander Boulevard in Tukwila to connect to SW 27 Street in Renton. It will establish a new east-west roadway on Strander Boulevard between the West Valley Highway (SR-181) and Oakesdale Avenue and widen the existing SW 27th Street. The next stage of this project is relocation of the Union Pacific rail tracks, with design work being done in 2006-2007 and construction in 2007-2008.

The Sam Chastain Waterfront Trail provides the missing link between the Cedar River Trail and the Lake Washington Trail on Lake Washington's south shore and serves as a critical connection for Renton residents, the business community and regional trail users to the Downtown Core. The project includes approximately 2,600 feet of regional trails and boardwalk, shoreline restoration, bulkhead replacement, landscaping and other amenities.

"We are very pleased with the decision of PSRC's Executive Board," said Mayor Kathy Keolker. "Transportation continues to be a major challenge facing our region and we need to build a strong transportation infrastructure to secure our future economic growth and make it easier for

people to get around. These projects will fund needed improvements in Renton and support smart growth in our region.”

Other projects in PSRC’s 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that benefit the Renton area include constructing high-occupancy-vehicle lanes and signal improvements on Maple Valley Highway (SR-169) from I-405 to the end of the Stoneway property, just east of Cedar River Park. The PSRC approved \$765,993 of federal funds for this project last year. Construction is expected to start spring or summer of 2007.

Puget Sound Regional Council coordinates decisions about regional growth and transportation planning in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties. In addition to the projects mentioned above, the City of Renton has several major transportation improvements planned for 2007 including construction around The Landing, widening of Duvall Avenue from Sunset Boulevard to the Newcastle city line and the potential rail bridge relocations for the Hardie and Rainier Avenue corridor projects.

