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For Immediate Release

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

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Mayor Law, Dignitaries Cut Ribbon on Rainier Avenue Improvement Project Completed project will improve transit mobility, upgrade traffic safety, and enhance pedestrian safety

RENTON: Renton Mayor Denis Law was joined Monday, December 9, 2013, by dignitaries representing state and regional governments, funding agencies and local businesses for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony officially completing the \$42 million Rainier Avenue South Improvement Project. The ceremony took place in the parking lot of McLendon Hardware in Renton.

“We are really pleased to complete this project ahead of schedule,” said Mayor Denis Law. “This is one of the major corridors in our city and these improvements provide significant benefits to businesses, enhance the economic vitality of our downtown, and strengthen transportation in and through Renton.”

Rainier Avenue South serves as the major north-south thoroughfare through Renton and connects South King County and South Seattle to Renton. The completed Rainier Avenue project will result in a safer, more aesthetically pleasing major north-south corridor to Renton. The project will improve transit mobility, upgrade traffic safety, and enhance pedestrian safety with new 8-foot wide sidewalks, landscaped buffers, improved street lighting and welcoming art displays creating a “gateway” to the city of Renton.

“Congratulations to the City of Renton and all of the project partners for working together on this important investment for our community,” said Congressman Adam Smith. “With new lanes, wider sidewalks, improved lighting, and safer pedestrian access, this project has created a gateway to Renton that truly reflects the spirit of this great city.”

The project is a funding collaboration of the City of Renton, Sound Transit, US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Improvement Board, Washington State Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Department of Commerce Public Works Department. In addition the City obtained a Stormwater Retrofit and LID Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology covering 85% of the cost of stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Phase 1 of the Rainier Avenue Project, completed in 2008, replaced the BNSF railroad bridge crossing over Rainier Avenue between South 4th Place and S/SW 7th Street. Phase 2, completed in 2009, replaced utility infrastructure, replaced the Shattuck Avenue railroad bridge, widened Shattuck Avenue at South 4th Place, and improved pedestrian areas adding sidewalks and landscaping. The culminating and final phase of this project consisted of a complete overhaul of Rainier Avenue South between Grady Way and South 3rd Street resulting in improved transit mobility, upgraded traffic safety, enhanced pedestrian safety, expanded business access and added welcoming art displays creating a “gateway” to the City of Renton.

“The Rainier Avenue Improvement Project is an excellent example of many community partners coming together to complete a very important project that eases congestion, enhances traffic safety, and improves transit,” said Stevan Gorcester, Executive Director Transportation Improvement Board.

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