

the Courthouse Journal

W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

**February 22, 2008
Issue No. 7**

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Courthouse Journal*

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House Unveils its Supplemental Budget

On Friday February 15, the Legislature learned that the economic and revenue forecast for 2008 would be \$432 million lower than previously expected. The revenue reduction dashed the hopes of most stakeholder groups, including counties, that any new revenue would be forthcoming. Instead, rumors of potential cuts to the 2007-2009 biennial budget began circulating in Olympia.

However, when the House Democrats unveiled their supplemental budget on Monday, it left intact almost the entire \$33 billion budget passed last year. Counties had no gains, but no losses in the budget. The biggest casualty was the amount of reserve that would be left after the Legislature adjourns.

The initial plan was to save at least \$1 billion in reserves. The House Democrats budget leaves \$750 million in reserves, which is \$453 million less than what the Governor proposed in November.

House Democrats did increase spending and cut or delayed some programs. Spending was largely the result of increased demands for government services such as schools, prisons and health care. Other additions included a 1% teacher salary increase, cost of living increase for nursing homes, over \$10 million in housing programs, and \$7 million in foster care services. Cuts and delays included funds for all-day kindergarten and downsizing of the WASL program.

On the bright side, legislation to reduce revenues also was set aside. Over 100 bills were introduced in 2008 to provide tax breaks for businesses and consumers. Of the 17 tax bills assumed in the budget, each reduced county revenues statewide by less than \$10,000. The largest tax break that impacts counties is **HB 2847** to provide a sales tax break on materials used in the weatherization of a home under the state weatherization program for low income persons, but again, the total statewide impact to all local governments was less than \$100,000.

The House is expected to pass its final budget on Monday, February 25. The Senate is expected to unveil its budget soon after. This all sets the stage for the final negotiations with the three corners – House, Senate, and Governor. While it is unlikely that there will be significant policy differences between the three, the amount of reserves will be the sticking point. The Governor has a keen interest on having a large reserve as the campaign season begins. It is speculated that she will push for a leaner budget/more robust reserves than either the House or Senate desires.

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

WACO - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director

Christina Bridston, Deputy Director

Robin Chase, Financial Operations Manager

Bob Carlton, Research Associate

Kathleen Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director

Policy

Eric Johnson, Assistant Executive Director

Rashi Gupta, Policy Director

Julie Murray, Policy Director

Jeff Killip, WSALPHO Managing Director

Brad Banks, Policy Analyst

Operations – Finance & Technology

Trina Bannister, Finance Director

Barbara Warden, Finance Specialist

Justin Kerrihard, Technology Manager

Operations – Member Services

Michelle Zahrly, Communications/Member Services Director

Ginni Peppert, Member Services Coordinator/Event Planner

Beth Dubey, Member Services Assistant

Program Contractors

Neil Aaland, Columbia River Program Manager

Tom Robinson, Timber Program Manager

Tonia Sugarman, County Training Institute Project Manager (CPO)



to our
Building Dedication Ceremony
April 5th, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.
on the
Garfield County Fairgrounds
during
Spring Farming Days
April 5th & 6th
Plowing to planting using the old ways

- Vintage Quilt Show
- Plowman's Lunch
- Chili Cook-Off
- Live Demonstrations
- Vendor Booths

The Eastern Washington Agricultural museum is the result of a grass-roots effort to preserve the agricultural heritage of Eastern Washington through interpretive displays, live demonstrations, and educational materials. This building dedication celebrates the culmination of that work and serves as a "thank you" to all who have supported it.

For further information please contact
Jay Franks, 509-843-1149
or David Ruark, 509-843-3506

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Budget, Finance and Taxes

County Assessors' Bills Pass the House

SB 2611, the annual revaluation of real property bill, received a vote of 94-1 on the House Floor but failed to receive the funding to implement it in many county offices. The Supplemental Operating Budget, **PSHB 2687**, was released on Wednesday and did not provide an appropriation for the Department of Revenue to assist county assessors in going to an annual revaluation. The budget most likely will not be adopted until the waning days of session but the outlook could be much better.

SHB 2609, a bill to allow digital imagery technology in property revaluation plans, will be heard today, Friday, February 22, in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee at 3:30 p.m. Spokane County Assessor Ralph Baker has contacted members of the Senate on the new language in the substitute bill that limits the use of digital technology for update property values to property that has been damaged by a natural disaster, is inaccessible to the assessor, or located in an extremely remote location. Baker cites the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property 3.3.5 which allows jurisdictions to "employ a set of digital image technology tools to replace a routine cyclical field inspection with a computer assisted office review " and says the limitation of use in **SHB 2609** eliminates the real efficiency of the type of date offers. Other assessors agree saying that many counties do not have a history of large scale disasters and would be unable to make use of what technology has to offer.

Levy Lid Lift Bills

HB 2554, requiring lid lift ballot propositions to expressly indicate a permanent increase to the the levy base, passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. No hearing has been set.

ESB 6441, providing that voter-approved increases in property tax levy limitations for a multiyear period of time of up to six years do not permanently increase a taxing district's tax base unless otherwise provided in the ballot proposition, was heard today in the House Finance Committee.

County Treasurers' Cleanup Bill

The Treasurers'/WACO request bill, **HB 2986**, cleaning up various statutes with regard to collecting taxes, refunding of taxes and archaic language passed out of the House and has been scheduled for hearing in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on Thursday, February 28, at 3:30 p.m.

School District Treasurer

SHB 2954, authorizing certain school districts and educational service districts to designate a district treasurer, died on the House floor this week, along with its companion bill, **SB 6674** in the Senate. Treasurers need to watch to make sure the issue doesn't show up as an amendment to another bill.

Inheritance/Tax Exemption

SB 6851, concerning documentation required in order to obtain a real estate excise tax exemption at the time of inheritance, was heard in the House Finance Committee Friday morning. WACO staff testified in support of the measure which is favored by the Treasurers' Association, as well as WACO. The bill allows a surviving spouse to receive an exemption from the real estate excise tax without the required documents if he/she shows a certified copy of the death certificate and signs an affidavit affirming that he/she is the sole and rightful heir to the property.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

House Hearing Set for Clerks' Bill

SB 6193, a bill to allow the county clerk the authority to withhold and deliver the funds of convicted offenders for payment of legal financial obligations, survived the cutoff on Tuesday and will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee next Tuesday evening, February 26, at 6:00 p.m. The house version of the bill was held from the floor by the Speaker at the objection of some members. There are some interests who feel that imposition of court-ordered obligations makes it more difficult for offenders to become integrated into society. The county clerks have increased collection of victims by 57.9% since 2003 when the clerks assumed the responsibility from the Department of Corrections. King County Clerk Barb Miner will testify in support of the bill.

Budget Highlights for Criminal Justice

Some of the appropriations for criminal justice included in **PSHB 2687** which was released on Wednesday include (and may not include) the following:

\$5 million to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) for local to assist in the notification and address verification of sex offenders.

\$2.3 million for the street gang initiative with \$1 mil for WASPC for local grants to target gang violence and graffiti abatement efforts. CTED will receive an appropriation for witness relocation.

\$ 1.4 mil to DOC for offender supervision. (**HB 2712**)

\$1.3 mil to Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for Family and Juvenile Court Improvement.

\$370,000 to the Office of the Public Defender for defense of dependent children 12 years and older.

\$1.2 in federal funds for the Justice Information Network Data Exchange (JINDEX).

\$750,000 for crime victim advocates programs through the county prosecutors.

\$9.8 mil for chemical dependency treatment beds for violators of community supervision.

\$853,000 for the Criminal Justice Training Commission for additional basic law enforcement academies.

\$1.05 mil for the Dept. of Archaeology for the newly created state physical anthropologist for skeletal human remains and inventory of cemeteries. (**E2HB 2624**)

Missing - the \$450,000 in the AOC budget requested by county clerks for increase caseload in collection of legal financial obligations.

(This list is not all-inclusive and does not reflect that if the bills do not pass the legislature, the appropriation will lapse.)

Juror Disqualification Bill Dies

HB 3159, a bill to require the county clerk to notify both the auditor and Secretary of State when a juror is disqualified, did not make the cutoff and is dead for the session. The county clerks opposed the bill.

Law Enforcement Issues

HB 1030, enhancing the sentence for eluding a police vehicle, will be heard today, February 22, in the Senate Judiciary Committee at 1:30 p.m., which is too late for inclusion in this edition of *the Courthouse Journal*. Sheriffs will receive a report by e-mail. **HB 1030** has been a WACO and WSSA priority for the past four sessions.

SHB 2476, authorizing the commissioning of tribal law enforcement officers, will be heard today at 1:30 p.m. in Senate Judiciary as well. Conjecture is that **SHB 2476** will pass this session despite the opposition of 38 county sheriffs. The opposition is based on several legal issues that **SHB 2476** does not address. They recommend development of a model policy group by WASPC before any legislation is passed.

Prosecutor Priorities

SB 6933, regarding the admissibility of evidence of prior sex offenses, passed the Senate and will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m.

HB 2713, which allows for broader collection of biological samples for DNA identification of sex offenders and other persons, will be heard on Thursday, February 28, at 8:00 a.m. in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Corrections.

SB 6488, the companion bill to **HB 2713**, will be heard in House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on Monday, February 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Wrongful Death Legislation - Expanded Liability to Local Governments

Despite WSAC's efforts, in partnership with 17 other local entities, to oppose **ESHB 1873**, the wrongful death legislation, it passed the floor of the House on February 16 and will cost local governments tens of millions annually. The bill passed 59-34. **ESHB 1873** is a substantial expansion of the wrongful death statute and allows more claims to be brought under this statute. A number of changes are made to the wrongful death and survival statutes, in the areas of the beneficiaries of these actions and the damages that are recoverable. It is expected to greatly increase the costs to public entities. WSAC and WACO joined with a number of other public associations early in the session to oppose the legislation including the Association of Washington Cities, Washington State Transit Association, Washington Ports and Washington Fire Commissioners, among others. **ESHB 1873** is scheduled for public hearing on February 26 at 1:30 in the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Elections.

The local governments' joint letter on **ESHB 1873** is available on the website. Please contact your Senators and let them know that local elected officials oppose this expansion of liability.

Gang Legislation

SHB 2712, based on recommendations of the Gang Task Force, passed the House floor with a vote of 94-1. The bill establishes a local grant program in support of special enforcement emphasis targeting gang crime to be administered by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The House budget includes \$1.5 million for law enforcement grant programs that target gang violence and graffiti abatement efforts.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

WACO/Auditor Legislative Priorities – Special Elections and Voter Privacy

E2SSB 5271, modifying when a special election may be held, passed out of the Senate on Tuesday, as did **SSB 5566**, the voter privacy bill. Both bills are part of the WACO Legislative package and were put forth by the County Auditors. The bills have been assigned to the House State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee, but have not yet been scheduled for hearing. It appears that the Committee Chair, Representative Hunt, is unwilling to hear **E2SSB 5271**, so county auditors should do their best to provide him with the best information available and call their Representatives and ask for support, because the timing is excellent for this bill. With the passage of the simple majority last fall, **E2SSB 5271** is now enjoying support from the original stakeholders, including the school directors, school administrators, fire districts, hospital districts and cities. The School Directors Association chose the dates for the special elections to be the second Tuesday in February and the fourth Tuesday in April, and the auditors also agreed to move the resolution for a special election from 52 days prior to the election date to 45 days prior.

With more than 100 school district M & O levy requests on the ballot on Tuesday, over half are passing with a simple majority. All but three of the rest are passing with more than 60 percent. The Washington Education Association is still opposed to this bill, based on principal, because schools are not receiving full funding from the state. The auditors do not believe that using elections as leverage for school funding is in the best interest of the voters.

Inactive Voters

HB 2473, eliminating the requirement that auditors send a ballot or an application to receive a ballot to inactive voters, will receive a hearing in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on Monday, February 25, at 10:00

a.m. This bill was requested by the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) and is supported by both the Auditors' Association and WACO.

Voters' Pamphlet Information

2SHB 2807 now requires the Secretary of State and the county auditors to post an online voters' pamphlet for primary and general elections, including all measures and candidates, including judicial candidates. The bill now has a null and void clause, should funding not be provided for this legislation by June 30, 2008. 2SHB 2807 will be heard by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on Thursday, February 28, at 3:30 p.m.

Electronic Recording

Thursday afternoon, the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee heard EHB 2459, creating the uniform real property electronic recording act. This bill is an OSOS request bill and is supported by the Auditors' Association and WACO.

Elective Office

The OSOS request bill, SHB 1534, regarding minor party and independent candidate nominating procedures, candidate filings, PCO's and making some technical changes to statute, passed the House and has a hearing in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee today at 3:30 p.m.

Voter Registration and Information

SHB 2917, regarding voter registration and informational activities at institutions of higher education (the Student Lobby bill), will be heard in the Senate Higher Education Committee on Wednesday, February 27, at 8:00 a.m.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Climate Change

ESSB 6580, Local Solutions to Climate Change/GMA – passed the Senate WITHOUT A NEW GOAL!!! WSAC thanks Senator Marr for hearing and addressing our concern about adding a new Climate Change Goal to the Growth Management Act. ESSB 6580 is now in House Local Government where it has its first hearing on Tuesday, February 26. The bill addresses the potential impacts of climate change with a possible link to the Growth Management Act via three base components:

1. Directs CTED to develop advisory climate change response methodologies and estimates to assist counties and cities. Establish support for and/or a requirement that currently available computer software available to Counties to evaluate a community's carbon emission "footprint" be modified to include other components, such as current and future vehicle miles traveled.
2. Creates a "Global Warming Mitigation and Adaptation Program" for CTED to fund at least three cities and three counties.
3. Directs CTED to report back to the Governor and the Legislature on how cities and counties are addressing climate change issues, other possible measures that cities and counties could utilize in land use and transportation planning. In completing its report, CTED must convene and consult with an advisory team comprised of the following interests:
 - * Two members of each major and minor caucus of the house of representatives and the senate;
 - * One representative from the office of the governor;
 - * One representative from the department of ecology; (d) one representative from the department of community, trade, and economic development;
 - * One representative from a city and county from each of the jurisdictional areas of a growth management hearings board;

- * One representative of an association representing real estate interests;
- * One representative from an association representing local government planners;
- * One representative from a nonprofit entity with experience in growth management and land use planning issues;
- * One representative from a statewide business association;
- * One representative from a nonprofit entity with experience in climate change issues.

Housing

ESHB 1727, planning to Ensure Sufficient Land and Densities to Accommodate Growth, requires consultation and cooperation between cities and counties in the adoption of rules and regulations in Urban Growth Areas. This bill still has language that is problematic to some counties and WSAC has submitted amendatory language. Specifically, WSAC opposes Section 4/Subsection 3 of this bill.

Annexation

SHB 2482, relating to the signature validation process for petitions that seek annexation, has passed the House and is now in Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee.

HB 2483, modifying assessed valuation requirements for the direct petition method of annexation, has passed the House and is now in Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee.

Additional Land Use Bills That Did Pass Cut-Off

EHB 3230 - changing the public notification and hearing requirements for permits issued under the shoreline management act.

SB 6892 - concerning the time limits of school impact fee expenditures. Increases the length a jurisdiction can hold impact fees prior to expenditure.

SSB 6609 - limiting the charge for permits for specialty agricultural buildings. These bills establish statewide limits on amount that can be charged for specialty agricultural building permits. WSAC opposes a statewide preemption to establish a limit on the amount of a permit fee beyond the costs currently permitted by law.

HB 2110 - allowing all fire protection facilities to use impact fees.

SHB 2575 - forming a technical advisory group on fire sprinkler systems in private residences

E2SHB 3186 - authorizing the creation of beach management districts.

Additional Land Use Bills That Did NOT Pass Cut-Off

Bills to change Washington's Vesting Laws (**HB 3202/SB 6784**) failed to pass.

SHB 1622 – permitting Boundary Review Boards to increase the size of an annexation up to 100 percent failed to pass and is still in House Rules Committee.

SHB 2535 failed to pass. This bill permits counties to place a moratorium on Shoreline Management permits, similar to other moratorium restrictions, and is in House Rules. WSAC supports.

SHB 2577 failed to pass. This bill provides for the chance to suspend transportation of concurrency requirements in "Regional Growth Centers" and is ready for floor action. WSAC supports.

SHB 2854 failed to pass and remains in House Rules and will obligate the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to submit a report to the House of Representatives and Senate every three years that analyzes compliance with the countywide planning policy requirements of the Growth Management Act.

After a hectic week of floor activity, the focus will now shift back to committee action where bills that passed one chamber will be heard in committees of the opposite house. Natural Resource issues on the agendas include:

Briefings by the Rukelshaus Center on implementation of **SB 5248** from the 2007 session regarding agricultural lands dispute resolution.

The Evergreen Cities proposal (**HB 2844**), pushed by the environmental community to promote and reward urban forestry programs, has been amended to accommodate the needs of Counties and Cities. A similar but less elaborate bill introduced at the request of the Dept. of Natural Resources (**HB 2468**), also remains alive and will be heard in committee.

A bill which would authorize coastal counties of Washington to establish and operate marine resource committees (**SB 6227**) has been stripped of its appropriation but could be funded through the budget as it continues through the process.

Bills sought by the dairy industry to reduce assessments paid into shell fish protection districts (**SB 6607** and **HB 2676**) have been modified from their original versions but still need work to gain acceptance from counties. The bills have drawn the attention of environmentalists and other industry groups who question the preferential treatment afforded the dairy industry. Any state mandate capping fees paid by one industry group would necessarily raise assessments on others and potentially weaken an important tool which could be used in furtherance of Puget Sound cleanup.

On Tuesday, more members of the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council will be up for Senate committee confirmation hearings.

On Wednesday, **HB 2893**, authorizing the appointment of a labor union member to the Forest Practices Board, will be heard. The bill has become a contentious issue pitting the environmental community against the combined forces of business and organized labor.

The hearing schedules for Thursday and Friday have not be determined but numerous time slots, some in the evening, have been reserved in anticipation of trying to move as many bills as possible before the Friday 5:00 p.m. deadline. It's likely the following bills will be heard in those time slots:

SB 6874-establishing the Columbia River Drawdown Settlement account.

SB 6348-studying interbasin water rights transfers.

HB 2219-providing assistance to small forest landowners.

HB 2471-implementing the state geological survey.

Two unique bills which remain alive have stirred opposing passions between urban and rural communities:

HB 2438-establishing a cougar hunting pilot project.

SB 5318-participating in the management of the Yukon to Yellowstone Rocky Mountain Ecosystem.

Each constituency hates one bill and loves the other giving rise to the possibility they may stand or fall linked to each other.

Pacific Northwest Salmon Center Seeking Nominations for the 2008 Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award

The purpose of the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame is:

“To honor and celebrate people who have demonstrated, over time, actions that have inspired and which continue to guide a passion for the preservation and recovery of abundant and diverse Wild Salmon populations throughout the Pacific Northwest. (Alaska, B.C., Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho)”

We are seeking nominations for the 6th annual Wild Salmon Hall of Fame award, with the winner to be announced on September 13th at a dinner celebration in Bremerton, Washington.

Individuals nominated for the award exemplify a dedicated, influential passion for Wild Salmon of the Pacific Northwest, as measured by specific criteria:

- *Demonstrates a passion for Wild Salmon in their career or volunteer work*
- *Enhances public knowledge and appreciation of Wild Salmon*
- *Creates a tangible, measurable outcome such as a book, artwork, event, or significant project*
- *Fosters a positive influence within his or her profession or the community*

The winner is chosen by a selection committee whose members are: Congressman Norm Dicks; Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Chair, Bill Ruckelshaus; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair, Billy Frank Jr.; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, Jeff Koenings; and Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recovery Program Manager, Charles Corrarino.

Nomination forms for the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award can be obtained by contacting Michelle Hori at 360-275-2763, or from our website at <http://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org/wshf.xml>.

[Read here about last year's finalists and award winners.](#) Nominations are due by Friday, June 6th, 2008.

Public Health & Human Services

Regional Support Network Bills

HB 2750 and its companion **SB 6404** passed out of the policy committees and were re-referred to rules without hearings in the fiscal committees. These RSN bills in their original form allow private entities to contract as RSNs; state that an RSN that voluntarily terminates its contract is prohibited from serving as an RSN in the future; and require 180 notice of intent to terminate a contract as an RSN. The House version of the bill remained in the Rules committee but **SSB 6404** passed out of the Senate and was heard in the House Health Care and Wellness committee on February 21. The Substitute Senate bill that includes notice of intent reduced to 90 days, would allow an RSN that voluntarily terminates its contract to serve as an RSN after 5 years and language providing disincentive for profits. WSAC continues to work with the sponsors to remove the 5 year prohibition and go farther in language to provide priority for non-profits in the procurement process.

Developmental Disabilities Bills and Budget

The House budget did not include funding for early intervention services but funding of \$572,000 is included for DD Employment Services.

SB 6736, establishing a lifelong services program for persons with developmental disabilities, did not make it out of the Rules committee prior to cutoff. Other bills WSAC is monitoring include **HB 2903**, to create the position of Court Access and Accommodations Coordinator to address access to courts by persons, scheduled for public hearing in the Senate

Judiciary committee at 1:30 on February 29 and **SB 6448**, providing for intensive behavior support services for children with developmental disabilities, which will be heard in the House Human Services committee on February 28 at 10:00.

Boards & Commissions

Apply Now for County Openings on Statewide Boards and Commissions

The following positions on statewide boards and commissions are available to County Commissioners, Council members or Executives. The WSAC Board will either nominate or appoint representatives according to statute at their March 27 regular meeting. To apply for any of the seats, complete the short online interest form by March 17 at <http://www.wacounties.org/WSAC/boards.asp>.

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext. 112 or mzahrly@wacounties.org.

Traffic Safety Commission – Serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Preference for this position will be given for current or past involvement in your local Community Traffic Safety Task Force, a Corridor Traffic Safety project or other efforts to improve traffic safety in your community. The opening was created when Snohomish Councilman Kirke Sievers stepped down from his seat in December. <http://www.wtsc.wa.gov/about/default.php>

Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee – Eastside Alternate. http://emd.wa.gov/e911/e911_advisory_committee.shtml

Recent Appointments to Statewide Boards and Commissions

Governor Chris Gregoire has reappointed Commissioner Mike Doherty of Clallam County to the Municipal Research Council for another three year term.

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar_of_Events)

High School Seniors Can Win a \$2,500 Scholarship for College

Two high school seniors will each earn \$2,500 for college from the NACo/Nationwide Scholarship. Winning applicants will have researched the amount of money they will need at retirement and described how secure their financial future for retirement. To be eligible, applicants must be high school seniors or graduates (age 20 and under) who are legal U.S. residents and whose parent or grandparent actively contributes to the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

Application and entry must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2008. More information is available at www.naco.org/retirementscholarship or contact Lisa Cole at 202/942-4270.

Transportation & Public Works

2008 Update Washington State Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plan

Public participation continues to be instrumental in developing the bicycle and pedestrian element of Washington's Multi-modal Transportation Plan required by State law (RCW 47.60.100).

With assistance and advice from an inter-disciplinary and multi-agency Steering Committee and a State Agency Advisory Team, WSDOT has produced a series of six background papers, including a summary

of the statewide public opinion survey, that will form the foundation for the update of the 2008 Plan. You can review these background papers now by visiting the website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/bike_plan.htm

Comments and feedback can also be submitted through this website or by calling the toll free number: 1-866-375-6729 through April 2008

Based on the feedback received through this process, a draft of the State Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plans is being developed and will be posted in early March 2008. To acquire a printed copy of any of the background papers or the draft Plan, please call: 360-705-7258.

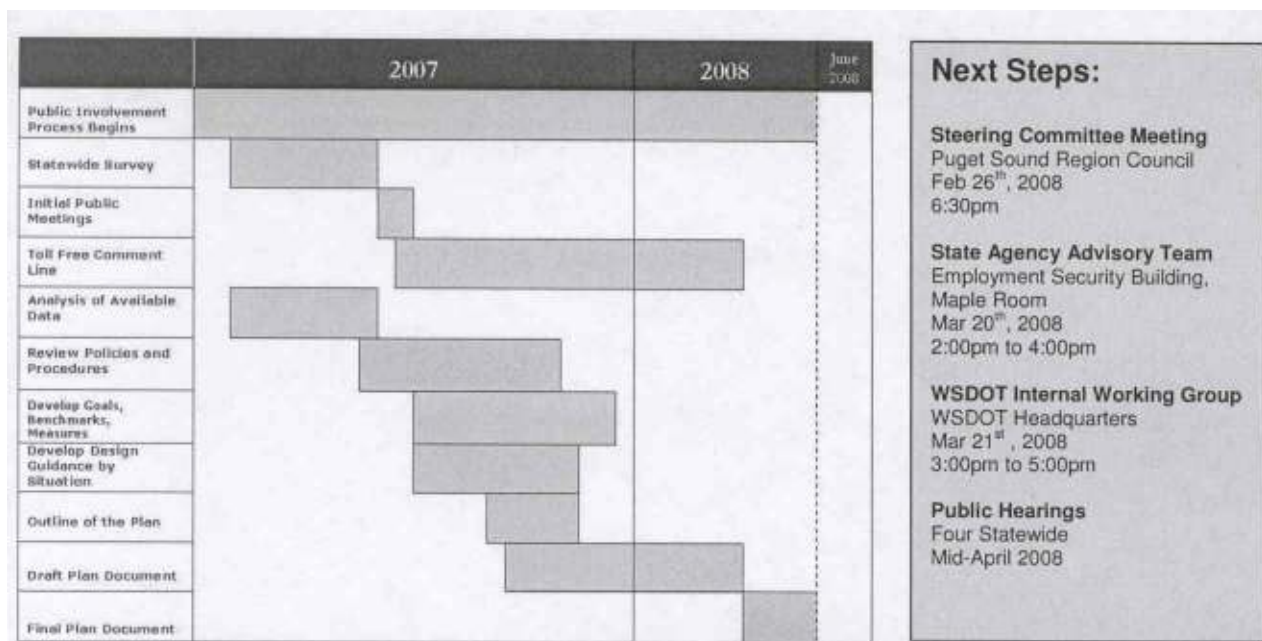
What are the Requirements of the Plan?

The state law (RCW 47.60.100), calls for the Washington State Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Plan to include strategies for:

- Improving connections
- Increasing coordination, and
- Reducing traffic congestion.

It also calls for an assessment of statewide bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs. Additionally, this Plan will satisfy the federal requirement for a long-range bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways plan.

What is the Timeline?



Association News

Reminder to Turn in Climate Change Survey

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee is reminding those counties who have not yet responded to the Climate Change survey to please do so as soon as possible. We are collecting counties' efforts to address and mitigate the potential impacts from climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. This information will be used in an informational brochure and on the WSAC website to illustrate to Legislators and others the actions counties already are taking. Photos are also needed.

Counties who have already returned their survey:

Adams
Chelan
Clallam
Clark
Franklin
Grant
Kittitas
Pacific

Pend Oreille
Pierce
San Juan
Snohomish
Stevens
Thurston
Whatcom
Yakima

For another copy of the survey, contact Brad Banks at bbanks@wacounties.org or (360) 586-4219 ext. 140.

Changes to 2008 Directory of County Officials in Washington State since publication:

Page 82 - Skamania County

Robin Pearsall replaced Barb Klinger
robinp@co.skamania.wa.us
509-427-3850

Delete Dolores Morgan

Kirby Richards - correct phone is 509-427-3850

Page 86 – Chelan/Douglas County

Delete Greg Story
Add Diane Forhan
Accountant
diane.forhan@cdhd.wa.gov

Courthouse Ramblings

As we reported last week, Kitsap County Auditor Karen Flynn is retiring March 31, after 21 years in office. There will be a retirement celebration and dinner for Karen on Friday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the Kiana Lodge, 14976 Sandy Hood Road, in Poulsbo. Colleagues and friends are invited to attend and give Karen an evening to remember as she moves on to retirement! Please RSVP to (360) 337-5688 or (360) 337-7118. Cost is \$50.

* * * * *

Carolyn Ableman is leaving the Snohomish County Auditor's office after working more than nine years as the Chief Deputy Auditor. Carolyn has accepted the position of Director of Records and Licensing for King County. A farewell party in her honor will be held in the Bob Terwilliger Room of the auditor's office on Thursday, February 28, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m., in Everett. Congratulations to Carolyn!

Good Things

Keeping It In the Family



Julie Murray, WSAC staff, and her Little Sister Alyssea lobby for funding to help children of incarcerated parents on Big Brothers Big Sisters' Legislative Advocacy Day.



Rural County Lobbyist Jim Potts and his grandson, Taylor, with Representative Bill Grant. Zack Kennedy, another of Jim's grandsons, is in Olympia assisting his grandfather during session.

Attachments

Welcome to the U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency

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The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the

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**Ray Burnett,
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies
Kansas City, MO.**