



# CITY OF SNOHOMISH

*Founded 1859, Incorporated 1890*

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For Immediate Release: December 21, 2009

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Port of Seattle and Other Agencies Purchase Eastside Rail Corridor**

The Port of Seattle completed its long-anticipated purchase today of the 42-mile Eastside Rail Corridor that connects Snohomish to Renton. This sets the stage for excursion rail service to the City of Snohomish to begin within six months.

King County, Sound Transit, City of Redmond, Puget Sound Energy, and Cascade Water Alliance plan to acquire rights to the corridor from the Port of Seattle for local uses. The rail corridor from Snohomish to Woodinville will be owned by the Port until another agency agrees to acquire it.

Today's transaction calls for GNP Railway to begin an excursion service between Woodinville and Snohomish within the six months. The City of Snohomish is working with GNP to determine where passenger facilities and other improvements would best serve the tourist train, which is anticipated initially to operate on weekends with either one or two trains per day.

"We're enthusiastic about the prospect of a way for visitors to arrive by train to Snohomish," said City Manager Larry Bauman. "We also look forward to planning passenger services for commuters and others looking for alternatives to our increasingly congested highways."

Passenger services are not currently funded or scheduled to begin on the rail corridor, but this has been actively discussed by public agencies that see public ownership of the rails as an ideal opportunity for public transit options to be developed at relatively low cost.

Also anticipated are a future pedestrian and bicycle trail parallel to the tracks. The trail system would provide another route for recreational and commuter bicycle use as well as an excellent pedestrian link between the communities.

"Combining transit, tourism and recreational uses of this corridor will maximize the public investment and provide excellent options to reduce our dependence on

automobiles,” said Bauman. “Future opportunities for our region have been vastly expanded through the purchase of this rail corridor.”

The existing freight service serving businesses between Woodinville and Snohomish will continue operations immediately under the control of GNP.

For further details about the rail corridor, visit the Port of Seattle web page at [www.portseattle.org](http://www.portseattle.org).