

## **Summary of SR 530 Landslide Road Reconstruction and Economic Redevelopment Efforts**

Gov. Jay Inslee and his Administration worked to quickly help the Stillaguamish Valley community get back on its feet following the devastating SR 530 landslide in March 2014.

- Convened the Stillaguamish Valley Economic Redevelopment Task Force comprised of 15 jurisdictions and agencies. The goal of this group was to compare notes, focus collective efforts and find opportunities to work as a team.
- Announced on April 25, 2014 a new \$300,000 program to save Hampton Mill, the economic heartbeat of the town of Darrington. This funding partnership between the State Department of Commerce and United Way of Snohomish County defrayed fuel costs for Hampton Mill and protected the hundreds of direct and indirect living-wage jobs in Darrington.
- Authorized \$150,000 of strategic reserve funds to market and promote the Stillaguamish Valley as a tourism and visitor location. This 'open for business' campaign was complimented by investments Snohomish County plans to make in park, trailhead signage, route-markers and parking lot enhancements that support tourism.
- Authorized \$25,000 of strategic reserve funds for rehabilitation and safety enhancements for the Darrington Timberbowl Rodeo grounds that allowed the rodeo to take place and draw record crowds.
- Successfully advocated for allowing log trucks that supply Hampton Mill to use a nearby detour route. This shortcut helped reduce fuel costs and preserve local jobs at the Mill, as well as reduced costs for local residents and businesses.
- Ensured WSDOT crews worked as quickly and respectfully as possible to remove 90,000 cubic yards of debris in just 20 days. They fully reconstructed SR 530 in just 109 days.
- Held 15 meetings through WSDOT with family, tribal and community members to seek input and keep local residents informed about SR 530 debris removal and reconstruction.
- Reduced red tape on the debris removal and road reconstruction projects so local contractors who wished to submit their interest and qualifications need only complete a one-page to a single point-of-contact. In addition, WSDOT held a forum to help connect prime contractors with potential local subcontractors.
- Advocated for local employment opportunities, and WSDOT's debris removal contractor provided about 30 "spotter" jobs to local residents.
- Advocated for and authorized the National Guard to transport 18 teachers and students over a powerline-road detour to reduce their hardship during emergency operations.
- Advocated for the opening of Mountain Loop Road as a secondary route for local residents. WSDOT and Snohomish County were able to clear the road of heavy snow in just three days.
- Helped redesign the Town of Darrington's website through the Governor's Department of Enterprise Services to better inform and promote the area. DES also designed a more professional email system for the town.
- Promoted agri-tourism through a \$5,000 Department of Agriculture grant to increase the number of local farms participating in "Red Rooster Route" designation. In addition, the governor secured a USDA disaster declaration that helped fund livestock replenishment, fencing and farm infrastructure.

### **Joint SR 530 Landslide Commission**

- Convened a joint SR 530 Landslide Commission along with Snohomish County Executive John Lovick to review the incident and the collective response and to provide recommendations to help plan and respond to similar events.
  - The commission was tasked with focusing its work on identifying the most important recommendations to immediately improve safety.
  - The commission reviewed the incident and established a timeline of events to better understand the collective response and guide policymakers.
  - It also reviewed the emergency response to the slide, including the initial emergency search and rescue and recovery of victims, community efforts, and coordination among local, county, state, tribal and federal governments.
- The governor's office moved quickly on key recommendations in the [commission's report](#), issued in December 2014:
  - The governor's transportation investment package, [announced in December](#) 2014, included \$36 million for landslide mitigation measures, funding for advanced LiDAR imagery and risk analysis for priority areas.
  - This package proposed funding statewide GIS mapping and creating a Hazard Identification Institute to be the central clearinghouse for geological hazard information in Washington.
  - It also proposed funding an Emergency Management Task Force that would ensure the right talent and resources are delivered as quickly as possible to future disasters throughout Washington.

### **Legislation and budget requests related to the SR 530 Landslide**

- In December 2014, the governor proposed \$36 million in a transportation investment package for landslide mitigation measures includes advanced LiDAR imagery, risk analysis for priority areas, statewide GIS mapping, creation of a Hazard Identification Institute and funding for an Emergency Management Task Force.
- The Department of Natural Resources requested \$6 million in the operating budget for additional LiDAR resources.
- On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Governor Inslee signed Senate Bill 5035 into law. Senate Bill 5035 allows the Medal of Valor to be given to a group, not just an individual. At a joint session ceremony on March 18, 2015 Governor Inslee presented the Medal of Valor to community leaders from the Oso area.
- Governor Inslee also signed into law two other pieces of Oso-related legislation.
  - SB 5088 requires the state Geological Survey to apply the best practicable technology, including LiDAR while identifying and mapping geological hazards. It also requires them to share data with local government and create a publically accessible database of LiDAR, geological hazard maps and geotechnical reports. Governor Inslee signed SB 5088 into law on April 17, 2015.
  - HB 1389 expands state fire mobilization for a disaster to include all hazards, not just fire (including wildland fires, landslides, earthquakes, floods and contagious diseases). Governor Inslee signed HB 1389 into law on May 7, 2015.