



# 2007 Update From Your Pierce County Councilmember

Volume IV, December, 2007

## SHAWN BUNNEY

### Councilmember, District 1

Member:

Rules Committee

Economic & Infrastructure  
Development Committee

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Dear Neighbor,

Where has the year gone? Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District 1 County Councilmember. As always there is a lot going on at the county.

Schools Out to Lights Out. Adult supervision and fun activities keep kids busy and out of trouble. I've allocated almost \$500,000 for District 1 kids over the years. Read my letter to The News Tribune editor about it.

Transportation. **HOLD ON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS!!** Read my letter to Governor Gregoire about keeping Seattle out of Pierce County wallets now that the roads and transit package was voted down.

Protecting Open Space. I co-sponsored a new conservation program to save farmland. Farmers and other property owners can sell development rights to their property. Developers who buy those rights get credits if they build in urban areas.

**LOST IN PIERCE COUNTY PARKS!!!!** See "Parks and Trails".

Lake Tapps. Many people continue to work on a solution to ensure the survival of a healthy Lake Tapps. This has been a long process, but we won't stop until an acceptable solution is found.

2008 Budget. Kids and public safety were the focus. We reduced other areas to fund children's programs and public safety without raising taxes, for a no-net-increase budget.

Thanks for your support.

Working for you,

Shawn Bunney,  
Pierce County Council  
District 1



**Pierce County**  
Office of County Council

## Schools Out to Lights Out



As your county councilmember I have been able to allocate almost \$500,000 to programs in District 1 that provide fun, adult-supervised activities. The following is taken from a letter I wrote to The News Tribune.

*“Dear Editor:*

*Your 11/26 editorial accused the county council of “taking care of pet causes in their home districts” despite a tight county budget.*

*I accept responsibility for the “Schools Out to Lights Out” program in District 1. Funding programs to keep kids busy and supervised has been one of my basic campaign promises since I first ran in 2002.*

*I believe providing fun, adult-supervised activities helps keep kids out of trouble after school. Studies show that partnering kids with positive adult role models reduces the likelihood of future criminal activity. This money is an investment in our future.*

*I not only got Schools Out to Lights Out funded for my district again, the council budget also increased money for kids.... (in many other areas).*

*The council made reductions in other areas so we can fund these vital programs without raising taxes. This is a no-net-increase budget.*

## Protecting Open Spaces: Transfer of Development Rights

The new Transfer Development Rights conservation program I co-sponsored will save farmland. It enables farmers and other property owners to sell development rights to their property without having to develop it.

Developers who buy those rights get credits so they can increase the density of building projects in urban areas.

This new, market-driven program will allow sale or transfer of the development rights, allowing financial gain. But instead of being developed, the property would be set aside for conservation.

Supporters hailed the conservation Program as a milestone.



## A Letter To The Governor

I sent this letter to Governor Gregoire on November 28 to help keep Seattle hands out of Pierce County wallets for road repair.

Dear Governor Gregoire,

Among the reasons I agreed to chair RTID were the desire to ensure that Pierce County projects were selected for their economic impact, to make sure that taxes raised in Pierce County stayed in Pierce County, and to provide leadership for our region in putting forward funding answers to regional road congestion.

Thanks in large part to King County Executive Ron Sims and the Seattle Times, voters were led to believe there is a better way to fund regional transportation. I am telling Pierce County taxpayers **HOLD ON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS!**

I am sure that before voters went to bed on election night some Seattle legislators were busy ramping up for another raid of the region's road funds...funds they say are for a \$4.4 billion "Safety" project called the 520 Bridge.

This is the same group that siphoned \$700 million in gas taxes out of Pierce County in the past fifteen years.

We heard this story yet again in 2006 when the same Seattle interests took almost \$400 million out of Pierce County wallets to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct; a viaduct, it turns out, not wanted by Seattle because it blocks the view.

To say that the 520 Bridge is a "Safety" project does not accurately portray the planned gold-plated entrances to the Emerald City and Clyde Hill/Medina. Current plans include \$100 million for bike and pedestrian lanes, \$250 million for five new parks created to muffle bridge noise, \$700-\$800 million for parks and lids on the east side of the lake, and a 50% capacity increase. The only thing missing is a giant archway from which trumpets can blare as Ron Sims enters and exits Seattle.

The scene is set for another contrived feeding frenzy in the legislature, which will leave Pierce County with crumbs.

I am hoping you see the advantage of thinking independently of the Seattle-centric view of the world.

As RTID chair over these years I have heard all there is about every prospective project advocated in the tri-county region. Of all the projects brought before RTID I believe the project with the most potential is SR 167.

Governor, Washington State needs a fully funded SR 167 jobs project. Extending SR 167 to the Port of Tacoma will create **80,000 new jobs** regionally. That road that currently ends in a corn field in Puyallup absolutely needs to be extended to the Port of Tacoma where it can boost the economy of the entire state.

The SR 167 extension is a legacy project.

No other construction project in the state offers 80,000 new jobs.

No other industry in the state anticipates 80,000 new jobs.

No other Governor in memory has had the opportunity to lock in 80,000 virtually guaranteed new jobs.

This is a once-in-a-career opportunity to impact generations of Washingtonians.

**Governor, let's talk.** We can meet one on one. If you prefer, I can bring a delegation of business owners, investors, and port officials. But with all due respect I am putting you on notice that Pierce County will not accept its tax dollars being ripped off yet again to pay for King County parks and 520 Bridge bike and pedestrian projects. Every political candidate and every elected official at every level in every possible public venue will be asked if they support SR 167 and the 80,000 new jobs the project offers.

We need to meet sooner, not later. **SR 167 needs to be on the top of your list of priorities.** Hopefully 80,000 new jobs are right up there for you also. Let's work together to make it happen.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Bunney, Pierce County Council



**Pierce County**  
Office of County Council



**Councilmember**  
**SHAWN BUNNEY**

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*Inside: 2007 Update from your  
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**SHAWN BUNNEY**

**2008 Budget**

Children’s programs and public safety were this year’s focus. The council reduced other areas to fund these vital programs without raising taxes, for a no-net-increase budget.

Funding of a new Superior Court judge was accelerated by three months to help address a growing case backlog. Two sheriff’s deputies were added. Funds were restored to help neighbors band together to prevent crime. The Council asked the Sheriff to begin planning for a new jail and to propose more alternatives to incarceration.

For kids, the council increased funding for United Way Early Learning, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Community Health Care, which is building its new clinic in the Salishan neighborhood. Parks & Recreation Services was funded to provide activities for children with developmental disabilities.

**LOST IN PIERCE COUNTY PARKS!!!!**

Shawn has lost 100 pounds in 2007, walking almost every trail and park in Pierce County!



Shawn Bunney and Congressman Dave Reichert discuss federal funding for parks and trails.