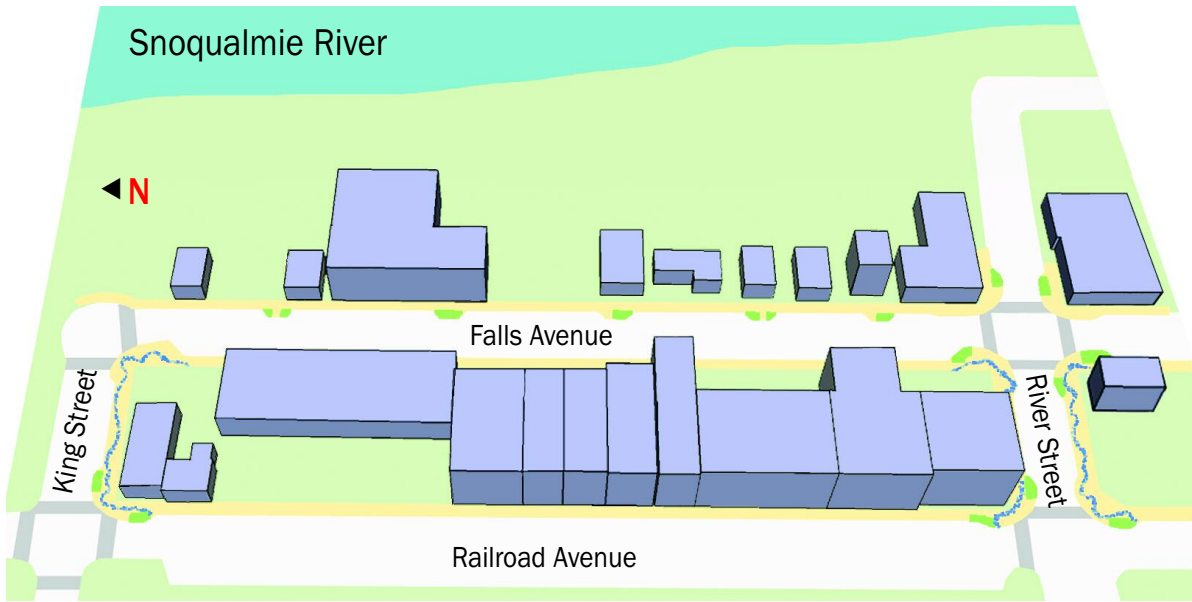


Downtown facelift

Text and illustrations by Dan Catchpole



City officials and merchants hope a \$3.6 million facelift will breathe new life into Snoqualmie's historic downtown

Identity columns



The city is considering adding "identity columns" as visible markers of downtown, placed at intersections on the edge of the downtown core.

The columns would be inspired by Mount Si and Snoqualmie Falls. In one design, one face of the stone is polished smooth to resemble flowing water.

The picture above is an example of identity columns.

By the numbers

- ❑ **150:** Total working days the project is expected to take to complete.
- ❑ **\$3.6 million:** Total project cost
- ❑ **\$2.2 million:** Construction cost
- ❑ **10:** Expected construction workers on project at any one time
- ❑ **2,570:** Linear feet of new pipes
- ❑ **11,000:** Linear feet of underground utility conduits
- ❑ **40:** Lampposts being put in
- ❑ **30-40:** Trees being planted along streets

Lanterns to lamps



Project designers tapped into the city's railroad heritage for inspiration in the design for new streetlamps.

The lamps' design draw on railroad lanterns, which once were ubiquitous to the industry.

The new lamps look very similar to ones currently outside Snoqualmie's Northwest

Railway Museum (pictured left).

Walking in the past

Downtown Snoqualmie's sidewalks are being repaved to resemble the wooden platform of the city's railroad depot.

Sidewalks being repaved are in beige above.

"Our streetscape is so tired, it doesn't attract people."

— **Wendy Thomas**
Business owner
Carmichael's Hardware



A river runs through it

Stretches of meandering blue grating (marked in blue above) will flow down parts of South King Street and South River Street, in tribute to the Snoqualmie River — one of the Valley's defining features.

UPDATES

Check these Web sites:

- ❑ **SnoValley Star:**
www.snovalleystar.com
- ❑ **Downtown Snoqualmie:**
www.snoqualmiedowntown.com
- ❑ **City of Snoqualmie:**
www.ci.snoqualmie.wa.us

Future development

The city has plans for future work downtown, including:

- ❑ **Extend Falls Avenue** past the bowling alley

- ❑ **Build a Snoqualmie River boardwalk**
- ❑ **Develop Sandy Cove Park**
- ❑ **Develop park north of railroad depot**

Themes

Snoqualmie city officials are hoping to tap into Snoqualmie Valley's many attractions, especially its three largest.

Themes from the largest attractions were used as design motifs in the project.

❑ Snoqualmie Falls: Each year the falls draw nearly two million visitors, but the only place for visitors to eat is the upscale Salish Lodge & Spa.

Snoqualmie is hoping to entice some of those visitors to take a short car ride down the road to its historic downtown.

❑ Mount Si: It is one of the state's most popular hikes, and draws more than 500,000 visitors each year, according to the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Snoqualmie could face more competition from North

Bend for these visitors in future years.

❑ Northwest Railway Museum: Located in the center of historic downtown, the museum (pictured right) has more than 88,000 visitors each year. Several events, such as Thomas the Tank and Railroad Days, attract big crowds to downtown.

City officials expect the museum's popularity to grow in coming years as it builds



its new exhibition building

and adds new features.

Parking

Work crews will be tearing up downtown Snoqualmie's streets, but plenty of parking will be available, according to city officials.

All of Falls Avenue between South River Street and South King Street will be unavailable for parking.

Available parking areas are marked in red to the right.

Public restrooms are available at the Northwest Railway Museum.

Source: City of Snoqualmie



City properties

1) King Street lot: City officials want to sell the lot at the corner of King Street and Railroad Avenue for redevelopment as a two- or three-story, mixed-use building with retail space.

2) Planning office: The building, which is an historic landmark, will serve as the project contractors' headquarters during construction and eventually be sold.

3) Former city hall: The two-story building which was the city hall before the new one opened will be leased out for mixed use, including retail.

New touches

The project includes major infrastructure improvements to downtown Snoqualmie:

- ❑ Reconfiguring parking on Falls Avenue Southeast
- ❑ New street lamps
- ❑ Reconstructing sidewalks on Railroad Avenue Southeast
- ❑ Removing utility poles and undergrounding of utilities
- ❑ Replacing sewer lines and storm water pipes
- ❑ Repaving roadways
- ❑ Adding curb bulbs at intersections

Several new touches are meant to integrate the look and feel of downtown Snoqualmie.

- ❑ Identity columns (tentative)
- ❑ Sidewalks paved to resemble railroad depot planking
- ❑ Street trees (Autumn Spire Maple and Japanese Stewartia)
- ❑ Decorative tree grates
- ❑ Landscape planters
- ❑ Pedestrian seating
- ❑ Custom street name signs