

Snoqualmie City Council
38624 SE River St
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Dear Members of the Snoqualmie City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce to express our full support for the Pacific West Rail Museum project in downtown Snoqualmie. The addition of this museum presents a unique and timely opportunity to revitalize our downtown area and bring much-needed economic vitality back to our city.

As you are aware, the ongoing construction of I-90 and SR-18 has significantly impacted tourism in Snoqualmie, resulting in a decline in visitors and a corresponding loss in sales tax revenue. With construction expected to continue until at least 2031, and with the second phase anticipated to add another four years of work, our downtown businesses are facing prolonged challenges. The Pacific West Rail Museum offers a promising solution to counter these impacts by attracting tourists and locals alike, drawing them back into our historic downtown.

The museum's focus on the rich rail history of the Pacific Northwest is a perfect match for Snoqualmie's heritage and will serve as a major draw for visitors. By creating an engaging and educational destination, the museum will not only increase foot traffic but also stimulate spending at local businesses, from restaurants and shops to lodging establishments. This boost in economic activity will provide a significant lift to our community, helping to offset the ongoing disruptions caused by the road construction.

Moreover, the Pacific West Rail Museum will contribute to diversifying Snoqualmie's tourism offerings, making our city a more compelling destination for both day-trippers and longer stays. This will generate more overnight visits, increasing demand for local accommodations and further driving economic benefits through increased lodging tax revenues.

Supporting the Pacific West Rail Museum aligns with Snoqualmie's goals of fostering economic development, promoting our unique cultural assets, and enhancing the overall quality of life for our residents. The Chamber believes this project will be instrumental in reversing the recent decline in tourism and restoring downtown Snoqualmie as a vibrant, bustling hub of activity.

We respectfully urge the City Council to support the Pacific West Rail Museum. This project represents a critical opportunity to reinvigorate our downtown, support our local businesses, and ensure the long-term economic health of Snoqualmie.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to our community.

Sincerely,
Kelly Coughlin
CEO
SnoValley Chamber of Commerce