



## Washington State Senate

### *Republican Caucus*

**For immediate release:**

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Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, (360) 786-7622

### **Parlette announces funding for Amtrak/BNSF Icicle Station in state transportation budget**

**OLYMPIA...** Sen. Linda Evans Parlette announced today that the state transportation budget will include \$250,000 for the proposed Icicle Station project near Leavenworth. Once completed, this project will bring daily passenger rail to this treasured north-central Washington community, known as Washington's "Bavarian Village."

"I couldn't be happier that our work to get this project into the state budget has paid off," said Parlette, R-Wenatchee. "Not only will it be a convenience for people who live in this community, but it will also boost tourism – Leavenworth's largest source of income. Right now the city hosts more than 1.8 million visitors a year. With a daily train stop, that number could jump substantially and result in more money coming into the community."

In February, Amtrak gave formal approval for the "Icicle Run," a new daily stop in Leavenworth on the Empire Builder route. Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) had previously given approval for the project. A recent survey showed that three out of five people in the Puget Sound region would rather ride Amtrak to Leavenworth than drive. A comparative Amtrak station in Whitefish Montana generates a \$5.7 million annual impact to the Whitefish community.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$750,000 and \$1 million. The city of Leavenworth has raised more than \$200,000 for the project, and has begun a capital campaign to raise additional funds.

"Receiving \$250,000 from the state for this project will go a long way toward making it become a reality," Parlette said. "This will benefit the local community, create jobs and help us highlight the beauties of Central Washington to people across the state, the nation and the world."

The Senate will vote on the transportation budget as early as tomorrow. Once it passes the Legislature, it will go to the governor for signature.

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